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NEWS BRIEFS

**Abner Louima released from
hospital over the weekend;
investigation continuing**

NEW YORK—An aid an ongoing police internal affairs investigation into whether there was widespread coverup in the Abner Louima beating two months ago, Louima was quietly released from the hospital over the weekend and now lives in an undisclosed location.

Louima, America's most famous victim of police brutality since Rodney King, was attacked and sodomized with a stick in Brooklyn's 70th Precinct two months ago by four patrolmen. He will be wearing a colony bag for "the foreseeable future."

**Army's highest-ranking
enlisted man faces courtmartial
for sexual misconduct**

WASHINGTON—A day after being ordered to face courtmartial by the Army, Gene McKinney was stripped of his title, sergeant major of the Army.

McKinney was suspended from his duties as the Army's top enlisted man when charges were filed against him earlier this year. He has been charged with 20 counts of sexual misconduct, ranging from adultery to indecent assault involving six military women. McKinney's twin brother, James, is one of two sergeant majors temporarily appointed to take over his duties since his suspension.

**Probation officer falsifies
defendant's records; faces
jail time**

NEWARK—Bisex County Probation Officer Peter Vaccarella, was indicted on charges of falsifying records to show that a defendant he supervised had completed the community service requirements of a pre-trial intervention program.

Vaccarella allegedly submitted a false document stating that the defendant had completed 50 hours of community service. As a result, the defendant was wrongly discharged from the pre-trial intervention program and the indictment against him dismissed. If convicted, Vaccarella faces prison time, a fine of \$107,500 and forfeiture of his office.

**Daughters of Betty Shabazz
request co-administration of
mother's estate**

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.—In a petition to Surrogate Court, two daughters of the late Betty Shabazz have requested to serve as co-administrators of their mother's estate, which they value at about \$700,000.

Although no holdings were detailed and no time set for the request will allow the two women, Ilyshah and Malaak Shabazz, to obtain detailed information from banks and creditors. A college lecturer and administrator, Betty Shabazz, the widow of Malcolm X died on June 21 from burns sustained from a fire set by her grandson, also named Malcolm, on June 1.

**House-Senate Conference
approves \$3 million for
Weequahic Park Lake**

WASHINGTON—A House-Senate conference has approved \$3 million to restore the Weequahic Park Lake in Newark. The spending bill is expected to receive final approval by the both houses of Congress before it heads to the President's desk.

Congressman Donald Payne, a long-time supporter of the Weequahic Park project said, "Approval of this funding is great news for our community. Improvements to the historic park will promote recreational activities for local residents and will help provide jobs and economic opportunities."

Poverty among low-wage workers rising, report says

NEW BRUNSWICK—The majority of New Jersey's work force without a raise and low-wage workers lost up to a dollar in hourly pay during the 1990s.

Those are just some of the economic findings released by Rutgers University researchers in a new study, "The State of Working in New Jersey," commissioned by the New Jersey Center on Economic Policy and Education (CEPE) in Westwood and funded in part by the American Sociological Association.

"Living standards for New Jerseyans are stagnant or falling for the majority of the work force, despite the fact that the state's economy has been growing for the past five years and employment is approaching an all-time high,"

said study co-author Leslie McCall, an assistant professor in Rutgers' sociology department and the women's studies program.

The study, which compared labor market trends in the 1980s and 1990s, found that in the 1990s, job growth has been sluggish, wages and household incomes are declining for many low-wage workers at poverty level is increasing, and income inequality is expanding between households at the top and bottom of the labor market.

The study is believed to be the first to take a comprehensive look at recent changes in New Jersey employment based on this real value of wages adjusted for inflation, and to specifically address issues involving low-wage workers and

and wage and income inequality between racial groups, men and women, household types, and college- and non-college-educated workers. The three major findings outlined in the report are:

- Wages were stagnant or falling for all but the top 20% of the work force between 1990 and 1995.
- Inequality in household incomes increased by almost one-third between 1988 and 1995.
- There was a rapid increase in the number of working poor between 1988 and 1995.

Other notable results: The gender wage gap between men and women improved between 1990 and 1995, although both groups experienced a decline in wages; and earnings declined for all racial groups between 1990 and 1995, but

less sharply for whites, followed by African-Americans and Latinos.

According to McCall, the traditional emphasis on the loss of manufacturing jobs is only part of the explanation as to the decline of the state's overall economic performance in the 1990s.

"Manufacturing is not a large enough share of the work force to drive overall trends anymore. The whole character of the labor market has changed throughout the state economy," said McCall.

"Changes in job skill requirements, the addition of more temporary and part-time workers, the conflict between work and family with people working longer hours to make up for lower wages are all putting downward pressure on wages."

C.I.T.E., Bell Atlantic strengthen ties

By G.R. Mattox

The possibilities and opportunities that come with the recent NYNEX-Bell Atlantic merger were brought to the table during a recent conference for African-American telecommunications professionals. Over 1,500 Bell Atlantic employees and guests attended the 14th annual Conference of the Consortium of Telecommunications Executives (C.T.E.) to discuss what impact the merger and diversity can have on the new Bell Atlantic, its employees and customers. The two-day conference gave these professionals the chance to step back from their local responsibilities and consider the overall trends of this increasingly progressive industry.

Maurice Brown, President of the 3,000-member network consisting of groups from Maine to West Virginia, says the organization is not only a reflection of their corporate commitment, but that of local neighborhoods and the customer marketplace. "While the conference theme is 'Windows to Our World of Technology,' it is more about the individuals and changes."

Brown encouraged and energized the audience at the opening session, telling them that it is their weekend to be in the majority. "We must begin to appreciate and value who we are as a people and as an organization. As Bell Atlantic merged with NYNEX, we became one company. We must not let race divide the one company in two, or we will not survive."

He demonstrated that Bell Atlantic recognizes C.T.E. as a major contrib-



At press conference C.I.T.E. Executive Vice President, Carl English, Maurice Brown, C.I.T.E. President, at left, and Raymond Smith, CEO of Bell Atlantic meet with members of the press prior to the conference's opening session. An admirable record in minority hiring and management placement. Over one-fourth of Bell Atlantic employees are minorities, with first and second level managers totaling 21 percent. "Numbers are good, but they don't tell the whole story," he said. "They can't tell us whether Bell Atlantic is a place where minority employees feel valued, respected and supported."

Bell Atlantic's chairman went on to describe what steps upper-level management will do to foster open communication between and among all its employees, as well as with its vendors and, of course, its customers. These steps include the restructuring

City Council, residents at odds during meeting

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

PLAINFIELD—Last week's city council meeting dealt with a number of ordinances that brought out angry debates between the council and residents, and even between the council members themselves.

Despite the contentious voting by residents the council passed an ordinance establishing permits for garage sales. The ordinance requires a \$10 fee, limits garage sales to two per year, and prohibits signs except on the seller's property, and a \$300 fine for noncompliance.

"I don't think this is something we should enforce," said resident Rasheed Abdul-Haq, adding that the city has been negligent in enforcing other ordinances that were more important.

City Clerk Laddie Wyatt however, said that this ordinance is necessary to curtail the number of garage sales, noting further that some residents would hold sales two and three times a week, and one resident even wrote to her saying the ordinance would hurt his livelihood, indicating profiteering, a clear violation.

Councilman Robert Ferraro was the only one who voted against the ordinance, saying the law hampers money from coming into the city. He wanted the matter tabled until the public was able to provide further input. "If there e sales, I would like them to be (sent) to the Council," he added.

Ferraro was the lone "no" vote on other issues as well. One was on a Council resolution to oppose congressional Charles Canale's bill to abolish affirmative action. "We have had \$150,000 in minority set aside studies done, and it doesn't matter about the study or the outcome of that study," Ferraro said. "People in this city of color are not getting business or any participation in part government, and it's not because of color, it is because they are not the right people's wishes."

Resident Brian Askew spoke to the council on how this particular resolution was being presented. He contended that the administration violated the city's own resolution on the resolution to debate with the public. "My opinion is one of \$50,000, and so is the opinion of everyone on the council," he said. "Your opinion is no stronger than mine, and that is why we have open debates."

Dunn responded by saying he himself brought the bill to the attention of the council, and felt they should deal with the matter. There was an angry exchange between Dunn and Askew during which Askew was almost removed from the meeting.

Another vote where Ferraro cast the lone dissenting vote was on a resolution involving a contract agreement with Middlebrook company T&M. Ferraro, a mayoral candidate, charged that fellow councilman Al McWilliams, the Democratic nominee for mayoralty, was denying McWilliams in light of this should excuse himself from the vote. McWilliams countered by denying accepting money from T&M and demanded Ferraro offer proof to the contrary. McWilliams did participate in the vote, and Ferraro was to produce that evidence, his vote would still count according to President Dunn. The next council meeting is on October 30.

Newark housing goes from "Riots to Renaissance"

*Affordable housing month celebration showcases community development

By G.R. Mattox

Recent housing is a priority with everyone everywhere. In years past, Newark has especially suffered from its lack. A group of non-profit organizations have gone the extra mile to make positive change in Newark's livability by making available housing comfortable and within the reach of the average city resident.

One of the themes of "Rebuilding Newark One Neighborhood at a Time," The Newark Community Development Network (NCDN) celebrated their first annual Affordable Housing Month Kick-Off Reception in the rotunda of City Hall. NCDN supports the work of two dozen non-profit community development corporations (CDC), and provides an unified voice for these groups on community issues like social services, credit counseling and special services in addition to housing development and homeownership.

The event celebrated the many accomplishments of the network, and displayed what community development means today in the country's third oldest city. It also encourages state and local officials, corporate and philanthropic partners to support the work of the non-profits.

Leonard Robbins, NCDN President and director of Unified Voluntary Services Organization Housing, welcomed the crowd and referred to portraits of various development projects displayed in the rotunda to describing the organization's mission. "We wanted to get together to promote what our non-profit community development organizations in Newark were doing. What you see today is one of the results of our efforts."

Some of these efforts include Corinthian Homes I, developed by the Corinthian Housing Development Corporation; Orange-Hecker Garden, developed by Newark Neighborhoods, Inc.; and townhouses along Bergen Street, developed by C.I.T.E. & Smith.

Stymia Urban Development Corporation. In addition to this construction, NCDN has recognized the importance of rehabilitating some of the city's existing structures and those being the St. James Community Development Corporation restoration of historic limestone building once scheduled for demolition, and the Donald Jackson Neighborhood Corporation rehabilitation of multi-unit housing in the Clinton-Hill section.

NCDN received a grant last year which enabled the organization to hire a coordinator. Sandra Bryant has helped make the group more cohesive and communication flow effectively between the separate groups. In her report on the State of Housing in Newark, she gave an overview of the history of the city's housing.

Substandard housing is an unfortunate by-product of Newark because of poor planning and its rapid growth as an industrial city. It compared unfavorably to other cities like Philadelphia and Baltimore, cities that were consistently developing housing of much better quality. More foresight was shown in the 1950's when Baxter Terrace, the first

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Corinthian Housing Development is one project under the NCDN low-rise housing development, was built by the city. This success had an adverse effect, however, encouraging the development of the high rise "projects" now mostly abandoned or see "Riots to Renaissance/pg 3

YWCA Week Without Violence includes community participation

YWCA chapters around the state plan a wide range of activities will be presented during the state to commemorate these events.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the week of October 19-22 is the third annual YWCA Week Without Violence. The concept of Week Without Violence is simple. It asks each of us to forgo any form of violence for a week—a week without committing, condoning or contributing to violence. With this as a springboard, lifestyle and lifelong changes can begin to be made to avoid, prevent and deter violence.

Committee Chairperson and Plainfield YWCA Board Member Stephanie Condas says, "It is rewarding to see members from throughout the community come together on an issue of such importance to us all. The creativity each participant has brought this year has produced an array of quality programs that address the issues of violence and its deterrence."

Like many branches around the country, the YWCA of Bergen County will plan and sponsor a series of workshops. Among those scheduled are: "Better

Communication, Better Parenting" at the Hackensack "Y", and a self-defense class at the headquarters in Ridgewood.

The YWCA of Eastern Union County celebrates Domestic Violence Awareness month with its Annual Charity Gala to be held at L'Africain in Montclair on Sunday, October 26. Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich will be among those honored for his efforts to strengthen law enforcement in domestic violence cases. On Thursday, October 30, the branch will hold an "Open House" at its administrative offices in Elizabeth.

The Board of the YWCA of Plainfield/North Plainfield branches the week by sponsoring the First Annual "Kids Speak Out Against Violence Art Contest." The winning entry will be on display at the Plainfield Public Library from October 19-31. Entries were judged by the Art Festival Committee of the Central Jersey Chamber of Commerce. Also on display will be artwork by members of the Plainfield Senior Citizens Center with their vision of a non-violent world.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

NEW BRUNSWICK—NJ Alliance for Action will have its 23rd Annual Eagle Awards Dinner at the Hyatt Regency. For more information, call (732) 225-1180.

MOUNTAIN SIDE—Community Access Unlimited will hold its 17th Annual Gala Dinner-Dance at L'Affaire.

NEWARK—Attend the 8th annual Volunteer Recognition Reception, at The Prudential from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more info, call 624-8000 ext. 247.

SOUTH ORANGE—Friendly Fold Neighborhood Center, Inc. presents The Power of Prevention Making a Difference in Unity and Action at 8:30 p.m. at the Memorial West United Presbyterian Church. For more info, call 973-642-2747.

MOUNTAIN SIDE—The 17th annual dinner-dance by Community Access Unlimited will be held at L'Affaire Restaurant. For more info, call 908-354-3040.

ELIZABETH—Union County College presents a financial aid workshop at 10 a.m. at Elizabeth Campus. For more info, call 908-759-7503.

NEW YORK, NY—The Caribbean Cultural Center presents Transforming the Crown: African, Asian and Caribbean Artists in Harlem, 1958-1998. For more info, call 212-664-4500 ext. 230.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

PLAINFIELD—People of all religions, races and creeds, young and old are invited to the Unity Allotment Rally at Park Madison, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, call 908-754-3272.

PLAINFIELD—Come hear the Hon. Minister Farrakhan via satellite at Plainfield High School at 7 p.m. For more info, call 908-754-3272.

PATERSON—Come and celebrate the Young Gifted & Blacked rally with the people of Paterson at City Hall from 12:00 to 3 p.m. For more info, call 278-3103.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD—"Rebuilding the Parent-Child Relationship Through Play" will be offered from 8:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Center for Counseling. For more info, call 908-769-7070.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Two family law attorneys will examine divorce law in a free public seminar from 7 to 9 p.m. For more info, call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

NEW YORK, NY—The March of Dimes presents an Art Auction at the Sony Plaza.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will hold an Urban Mission

Conference on the theme of "Similarities and Differences: Building Bridges to the New Millennium."

GLEN RIDGE—A new way to teach and a new way to learn will be unveiled in the synergistic Systems Lab at the Ridgewood Avenue Upper Elementary School at 11 a.m. For more info, call 201-465-7006.

EDISON—The Middlesex County College Performing Arts Dept. presents, "I Hate Hamlet," a comedy by Paul Rudnick at 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-906-2593.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—A "Workshop Utilizing the Natural Environment" will be held at Montclair State University's NJ School of Conservation through the 19th. For more info, call 973-948-4646.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Gifted Education conference at Montclair State University will be held. For more info, call 973-334-6991.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

CENTERON—The Salem County Branch NAACP annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet will be at the Centeron Country Club. Tickets: \$35. For more information, call 609-299-0806 or 908-550-9760.

PLAINFIELD—United National Bank Community Education Center will have a Citizen Workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more info, call 908-753-8730.

WATCHUNG—The Watching Arts Center presents another hilarious Comedy night at 8 p.m., for more info, call 908-753-0190.

JERSEY CITY—Visit the Jersey City Museum for two gallery talks and tour the Museum's exciting new exhibitions. For more info, call 201-547-4514.

WESTFIELD—The conference, entitled, "Taking Charge of a Busy Lifestyle" will be held at Johnson & Johnson from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info, call 908-664-1234, ext. 236.

TRENTON—The New Jersey Council for Humanities presents storytelling, special forums, lecture and discussion groups, and other events statewide during the Council's Humanities Festival Week through the 26th. For more info, call 609-695-4636, ext. 223.

CRANFORD—Union County College presents "College for Kids" and "Academy" programs through Nov. 18th. For more info, call 908-709-7503.

SCOTCH PLAINS—A craft fair will be held at Union Catholic Regional High School from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info, call 908-889-9475.

NEWARK—"Hooray for Children", the ever-popular series of live programs features quality performances by puppets, storytellers, magicians, and theatre groups. For more info, call 973-756-5642.

ESSENCE on the Mall stops in Paramus



The National 1997 ESSENCE on the Mall Tour made the second stop of its five-city run in Paramus at Garden State Plaza on Saturday, September 27, and featured a variety of guests during its relationships seminar. The seminar panelists were, pictured from left to right, new-lweds Nicholas Chiles and Denise Miller. Miller is the author of *The Sister's Rules: Secrets for Meeting, Getting, and Keeping a Good Black Man*; Mikki Taylor, ESSENCE magazine's beauty and cover editor; the Reverend Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook, author, pastor of Bronx Christian Fellowship and member of the President's Commission on Race Relations; and Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant, sex educator and ESSENCE Between Us columnist. Participants were also asked to contribute slightly worn business clothing and shoes to support the ESSENCE Helping Sisters community clothing drive, which will benefit The First Step, a local outreach organization that provides transitional services to women in the Paterson area, and Community Action, a shelter in Hackensack. The National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., Women's Auxiliary assisted in the clothing drive.

Newark's public housing scores 91 on HUD'S PHMAP

NEWARK—The Newark Housing Authority (NHA), once excoriated as a symbol of failed public housing, has received a score of 91 on the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development's management report card and been designated a "high performer" by the federal government. In a letter to NHA Commissioner Doris McGraw Crank, Chairperson of the seven-member board, Carmen Valenti, HUD's New Jersey director, office of public housing, wrote: "The (Newark) Housing Authority's total weighted Public Management Assessment Program (PHMAP) score for the assessment of its fiscal year ending 3/31/97 is 91 percent."

"Executive Director Harold Lucas and his staff are to be commended for this extraordinary achievement. It must be emphasized that before Mr. Lucas became the Executive Director five years ago, the NHA had never passed PHMAP and was constantly singled out as a 'troubled' housing authority."

Mr. Lucas credited his administrative staff, managers and supervi-



NHA Director Harold Lucas
sors, as well as all the NHA employees "for doing their jobs and helping us become a high performing housing authority." Lucas said, "We have evolved from an agency of ridicule to becoming one of the most highly respected public housing authorities in the country. "We can hold our heads high and be proud of what we have accomplished."

EEO head leads National Bar association for second term



Claude Trahan, second left, Director of EEO, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, is sworn in for a second term as president of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association (MBBA) in New York City, at third left, as witnessed by Raymond M. Brown, Esq., anchor of Court TV and Beverly McQueary Smith, president elect of the National Bar Association. The 1,000 member MBBA is the merger of the nation's two oldest African-American bar associations: The Harlem Lawyers Association, and the Bedford-Stuyvesant Lawyers Association.

Essex County College helps France to meet his goals

Irvington resident Harold France was playing soccer in his local church league two years ago when his ability and talent first caught the eye of Al Prophete, the men's soccer coach at Essex County College.

"I could see there were things Harold could do very well on the soccer field," Prophete recalled when he first saw the slender, five-foot, French-Haitian native. "He's not big—he's only 135 pounds—but soccer is all about size," added Prophete, whose 70-1 Wolverines are ranked fourth nationally in the National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Soccer Coaches Poll.

"In Haiti, they give you the ball and you go with it, a tight fullback who absorbed Prophete's system for the first four games this year."

Prophete said he asked several coaches about France, who has been

living in the United States for less than four years. The coach then met with the 26-year-old France and got him to enroll this semester in the college's hotel management program.

"I was looking for a college to attend so I could pursue my dream of earning a degree in hotel management," said the soft-spoken France, whose play in his Seventh Day Adventist league in Newark originally got the coach's attention. "I have some friends here and they spoke highly of the school."

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—Randall Robinson
Executive Director
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WORLD BRIEFS

US Airways comments on union vote

ARLINGTON, Va.—US Airways said today that a majority of eligible employees in the passenger service and reservations classifications had cast ballots for the Communications Workers of America. The airline said it will comply with all legal obligations stemming from today's election while it pursues its legal challenge to the National Mediation Board decision ordering a rerun of a previous election in which employees had voted against union representation.

SOUTH AFRICA PRESS UPHELD APARTHEID POLICIES

JOHANNESBURG (IPS) — This simple anecdote is just one of many examples which reflect how the press, during the height of apartheid in South Africa, disregarded Blacks in their dissemination of information.

"The mainstream liberal newspapers were guilty of violating the basic human rights of Black people by denying them information," journalist Jon Qwelane told a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) media hearing yesterday taking place in Johannesburg. "The existence of separate apartheid-style newspapers necessitated the demarcation of news roles on racial lines. Elsewhere it wasn't to work, in practice it was there," he said.

"I want to charge all the mainstream newspapers, every single one of them, English language and Afrikaans language, with collusion with apartheid," Qwelane continued. "I also want to charge them with having a hand, directly or indirectly, in the murder of thousands of Black people by the apartheid army and police."

The media is currently under the harsh spotlight of the TRC, set up by parliament to investigate gross human rights violations during apartheid. More than 5,000 newspapers, journals and magazines are registered in South Africa and the major newspaper groups, Times Media Limited (TML), Nasionale Media, Perskor, and Independent Newspapers remain dominated by whites.

Since the Commission began its hearings on Sept. 15, 1996, more than 100 newspapers were cited by apartheid spies and that as a propagandist, the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) at times went beyond the whims of even its own bosses in the execution of its role.

HARARE HOSTS SADC WOMEN'S EXPOSITION

HARARE, Zimbabwe (PAN) — From November 19 to 26 Harare will host the Southern African Development Community (SADC) women's exposition. The effort is aimed at giving women-owned, small-scale enterprises commercial exposure.

Organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNDP) in collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the expo will also provide a forum for women to discuss their specific constraints and opportunities in developing their enterprises.

"The expo will address the need of bridging the isolation of small-scale producers to give them and their products commercial exposure," said the organizers.

The expo will exhibit among others, mining products, ceramics, carpentry products, textiles and leather products. Community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, government and private organizations working with women's groups will also participate at the exposition.

UNDP TO HELP ZAMBIA ESTABLISH DISASTER UNIT

LUSAKA, Zambia (PAN) — The United Nations Development Program has signed an agreement to help Zambia establish a disaster management and mitigation unit. The deal is intended to strengthen Zambia's capacity to deal with disasters. UNDP's acting resident representative in Zambia, Omerio Oyale, said that although accidents and natural disasters such as drought could not be prevented completely, their impact on the population and the economy could be mitigated if appropriate response measures were in place.

"It is our hope that if and when they do arise, the country will be ready to respond quickly and effectively," he said.

Zambia is not prone to earthquakes and severe cyclones. However, the country has had its share of natural and man-made disasters like droughts, road, air and mining accidents, the influx of refugees and the recent spate of fires in which property has been lost.

Caribbean Region Joins Forces On Trade

By Wesley Gibbings
Special to the NNPA from IPS

PORT OF SPAIN (IPS) — Latin American and Caribbean researchers are keeping a close eye on the performance of trade and investment arrangements in the area under six regional integration schemes that have been posting steady growth over the past few years. Intra-regional exports among the various blocs within the hemisphere increased by 150 percent between 1990 and 1995. One study conducted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean concludes that the phenomenal impact of trade growth among members of the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the Southern Common Market (Mecosur) has the potential to spread to other regional and regional groupings such as the Caribbean Community (Caricom), a 15-member grouping. Next in importance are the ties between the Group of Three (G3) and the CACM and Caricom. Then come relations the Andean Community with CACM and Caricom. The weakest links are to be found in Mercosur's ties with CACM and Caricom and CACM/Caricom relations. Colombia and Venezuela are both members of the G3 and the Andean Community, Venezuela, Mexico, Brazil and countries that do the most business with the CACM and Caricom. Mexico, with a population of 90 million, Colombia, with 34 million, and Venezuela, with 24 million, are also a part of the Association of Caribbean States and analysts say they are big enough to provide a market for Caricom goods and services. These countries are large enough to absorb the surpluses and if we are able to reach new agreements on trade, the various restrictions which have been imposed by some Caricom countries will surely be something of the past," says one analyst. Caricom countries are wrestling with its own efforts to establish a single market, accurate for just two percent of all exports in the Latin American and Caribbean region while trade among the Caribbean countries themselves have never exceeded 12 percent of total trade. One expert is also arguing that

improving intra-regional investment can enhance trade between the regional groupings to the advantage of the smaller territories of Central America and the Caribbean. Chilean economist Eduardo Gaa has also observed a virtual convergence of tariff levels among the various groupings and notes that Mercosur, the Andean Community, CACM, and Caricom tariff rates are now quite similar. Minimum values are in the region of nine percent in El Salvador, Bolivia and Uruguay, while maximum values of between 15 and 17 percent can be found in Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, and Argentina. In tariff terms, the greatest market opportunities for Caricom countries in Latin American Integration Association (LAI) countries — notably Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela — are in the areas of farm products (in Argentina and Brazil) and in mining products and certain branches of industry, such as chemicals, basic metals, and paper and printed matter. Gaa, however, argues that while there have been a number of agreements between countries in LAI, CACM and Caricom "they have not generated all the positive effects hoped for." In the area of intra-regional foreign direct investment (FDI), Gaa estimates that between three and five percent is generated internally. "Although tiny in relation to the total volume of FDI received by the region (intra-regional investment), it is gaining in importance as it now represents a powerful trend which, as integration schemes continue to be consolidated, has a strong tendency to accelerate," he says. Significant investment activities are being noted between Argentina and Brazil; Argentina and Chile; Mexico and the countries of the Central American Isthmus; Colombia and Venezuela and Chile and Peru. "We can see that intra-regional investment is beginning to assume significant proportions in these countries by comparison with investment from developed countries," Gaa says. He suggests that it is "particularly important" to promote regional investment. He argues that a substantial flow of regional FDI to Caricom and CACM will encourage the heavier flow of exports from these smaller groupings to their Latin American counterparts.

NPCBW honors five newly-elected African American congresswomen at awards brunch



Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, second left receives the 1997 National Political Congress of Black Women Award from G. DeLores Tucker, third right, Chair of the NPCBW. With them is, at far left is Diane Watson, Ph.D., and, at far right, Senator Carol Mosley-Braun.

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc. (NPCBW) recently honored the five newest African American women of Congress during its Annual Awards Brunch presided by Senator Carol Mosley-Braun. NPCBW formally welcomed

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI), Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA), Donna Christian-Green (D-VI), "Each year the National Political Congress honors those who have made major contributions to our struggle," said NPCBW Chair, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker. "Our dynamic and dedicated honorees are recognized for making significant contributions to change debilitating conditions in America."

NPCBW's five-day Annual Awards Brunch and Biennial Convention, "African-American Women for Vision and Action in the 21st Century," addressed social, economic, and political issues facing African Americans. Participants included Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman; Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater; Office of Management and Budget Director, Frank Rains; and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

Dymally attacks advocates of sanctions against the Republic of Sudan

Senator Arlen Specter's Legislative Bill 5772 calling for sanctions against Sudan, specifically naming nations who "have a developed a pattern of religious persecution" received a blast from the former Chairman of the House Sub Committee on Africa, Mervyn Dymally, who also served as Chairman of the House International Operations Committee responsible for the State Department Budget and U.S. Embassies around the world.

Calling the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights absolutely correct to recommend defeat of the Senate Bill and House Bill HR 1683 by Congressman Frank Wolf of Virginia, the ex-representative from

Inglewood, California cited the dangers of shutting off humanitarian aid and banning exports to offending nations and harming bi-lateral relations with key allies.

Former Congressman Walter Fauntroy, head of the Congressional Black Caucus Round Table joined Dymally in issuing a strong statement attacking the full scale political action campaign promoting this legislation.

The Clinton State Department's Assistant Secretary John Shattuck are on target when they say our foreign policy should remain firm in advocating the advancement of religious free-

dom around the world at the same time it resists the temptation to take a diplomatic sledge hammer and harm the very people it is trying to help," Dymally declared.

"I join with John Shattuck, our point man in the human rights battle, in warning our Congressmen and the American public that we should fear reprisals against victims as well as an end, any dialogue on human rights freedom in retaliation for the sanctions the bill would automatically impose."

"We must not create government costs to poison private and public works," Dymally said. "We do not need a division of religion in the U.S. Department!" Dymally concluded.

Riots to Renaissance

Continued from page 1

already demolished.

When the smoke cleared and the water dried from the 1967 rebellion, 26 residents lost their lives. It left up to \$15 million in damage and much of the Central Ward a burnt out ruin—"But struck," Newark was further devastated by businesses relocating and residents leaving the city, with the population shrinking by almost 23,300 people. Between 1970 and 1980, the city replacements were vacant lots and high rise skeletons.

Bryant described the corruption in the NCDN as taking the city from "Riots to Renaissance," and not repeating the mistakes made since the 1960s. Placing more thought in the housing planning, Bryant said "The tried to establish communities of place as opposed to bricks and mortar," she said. "You have a host of CDC's carefully planning housing, making it beautiful and creating a much better housing stock."

Giving a perspective from the community standpoint, Gloria Chambers, told of how she saw the Central Ward after the rebellion, and how it improved. A resident of New Community Corporation for 17 years, and working with the organization for the past 13, Chambers says the change is "unbelievable." When I moved in they had begun to build parts of the Central Ward; families coming from different places and moving in. We were beginning to own our own homes," she said. "It's great to look back 30 years and see where Newark has come from. I believe that if everybody looks at the Renaissance and looks at the future, it's going to get better."

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Waters calls for Investigation of Nigeria

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Maxine Waters demanded a full investigation and report by the State Department into the recent storming of a farewell party held for U.S. Ambassador Walter Carrington by human rights groups in Nigeria by armed security forces of dictator Sani Abacha.

"This outrageous intrusion demands an immediate and public response," said Rep. Waters. "The unacceptable treatment of U.S. Ambassador Carrington at the hands of the Nigerian police is a direct affront to the people of the United States."

According to the State Department, the United States has filed a strong protest with Nigeria regarding this incident. However, the incident raises questions about whether the current economic sanctions by the United States are enough to cause the Nigerian regime to discontinue human rights violations and work to create free and fair elections for full democracy in Nigeria.

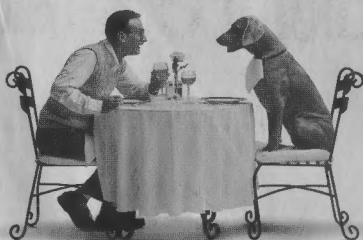
"We should not be surprised that a government that callously tortures aside a democratic election and imprisons the elected President would violate and disrespect our U.S. Ambassador," added Waters. "Our current sanctions are not working and they treat them as a joke."

Congresswoman Waters has co-sponsored HR 1786 to increase economic sanctions, including freezing foreign assets, against the illegitimate government.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

BARBADOS—Crisp News' Multi-National Business Conference will be held through the 19th in Barbados. For more info, call 212-944-1991.

UNION—Join us at the free "Business Borrowing 101 Financial Seminar" from 9 a.m. to noon at the Union County Economic Development Corp. For more info, call 908-527-1166.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

ELMONT, NY—Business Expo and Trade Show from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more info, call 718-829-5402.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

NEW YORK CITY—Conference and Business Opportunity fair sponsored by the National Minority Supplier Development Council. For more information, call 212-944-2430.

NEW YORK CITY—1997 National Minority Supplier Development Council Conference, at the New York Hilton and Towers. For more information, call (212) 944-2430.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

SOMERSET—The statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey presents "Partnering for Success," Convention and Expo., at the Garden State Convention Center. For more information call, 908-595-1470.

BRIDGEWATER—Business showcases and networking from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Bridgewater Manor, for more info, call 908-725-1552.

Empowerment Summit stressed faith-based ventures as option

By Avery Grant

The New Jersey Statewide Empowerment Summit I stressed being faith-based is an option for successful business ventures. Several of the panelists at the summit in the New Brunswick, Hilton were ministers and laity who had led their congregations in successful major economic ventures.

Rev. Dr. DeForest "Buster" Soaries, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, told the audience of over 400, that

"Somebody has got to lead, we grow up through a messianic period where we have allowed ourselves to be led by a person, and have been waiting for 30 years for someone to appear to lead us." Continuing he said, "We would be looking for Dr. King, when what we needed is financial management."

Rev. Soaries cautioned that affordable housing and community development is a process that requires extensive planning and partnerships between church, government, banks, and people. He said that only one tenth of one percent of their funds came

from the government. His church is building a \$10 million office, has formed a credit union, and has built housing developments, and a large commercial office complex.

The goal of the summit included the presentation of a statewide empowerment agenda, representing the concerns, objectives and goals of New Jersey's diverse minority community, through the assemblage of some of the "best and brightest" of New Jersey's minority community. The intended outcome is to reduce barriers to full minority participation in the political, social and economic arenas; improve the dissemination of vital information to minorities; and create a more cohesive and unified community.

The four sessions explored the areas of housing and community development, economic development, youth entrepreneurship and youth participation, and health care.

Guillermo Medina, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of

Commerce and Economic Development, moderated the session on economic development. He told the audience that his position had truly humbled him because prior to that he believed that the solution to the problems of poor people and society was government, but "there is a change in culture in New Jersey and it is through partnership and self empowerment, that solutions can be achieved," moderated by Samuel S. Sington, Jr., executive director of the Morrisbrown Neighborhood House related that we must recognize and respect the "zone" of our youth if we are to successfully help them help themselves.

Referring to health issues, Dr. Eric Munoz, Medical Affairs Liaison for the University of Medicine and Dentistry, said it is important that everyone have access to primary care. "Many of our people still get medical care out of the emergency room, but the future is bright because we (blacks

and Hispanics) will become the majority, and by sheer numbers we will be empowered (to effect changes). Essex County Freshkills Shells Y. Oliver urged that disease prevention be incorporated into all planning. She said that many of our communities are sitting on toxic waste dumps placed there by prior industrial occupants. "It is a travesty that they (medical providers) ask you if you are in trouble and just tell you policy prior to treatment. Many people ridiculed Hillary Clinton because she tried to raise health care to a national level."

Channel 9 TV newscaster Reggie Harris was the keynote speaker. Citing his extensive travels, he said, "Black people are in trouble not just in New Jersey and the United States, but all over the world so we have an obligation to do what we can and to go as far as we can, and economic development is the linch pin."

Joseph Yeardon & Co., CPA's, for top honors

role in the affairs of this community and to continue to provide the community with a full line of quality services to meet their financial needs," Joseph Yeardon, President and CEO stated.



Joseph Yeardon

NEWARK—Prominent Essex County accountant and tax consultant, Joseph Yeardon, President and CEO of Joseph Yeardon & Co., CPA's, was selected by a joint consortium of minority business development agencies for recognition as the "Minority Service Firm of the Year."

Joseph Yeardon & Co., CPA's, is a full-service CPA firm which provides a high standard of excellence to their clients. Established in 1988, the firm's mission is to provide leading-edge information and services to meet their client's accounting, investment, management, tax and consulting needs.

"I am very pleased and honored that our firm has been selected to receive this high honor. Everyone at Joseph Yeardon & Co., CPA's, is enormously gratified that the KBO and NBDC hold the work of our firm in such high esteem. This award certainly strengthens our resolve and commitment to play an even more active

Legals Legals Legals

IRVINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS QUALIFIED CONSULTANTS FOR VARIOUS TECHNICAL SERVICES

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Provide technical assistance and support services to allow the Authority to fulfill requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the State of New Jersey as well as request of the resident and directives from the Executive Director.

TYPES OF SERVICES

Report preparation, Policy & Procedure Development, Grant Application Preparation, including budget program design, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, troubleshooting operational problems, procurement assistance, training, community organizing and general work resulting from federal, state, local and insurance companies requirements. The candidates must be able to write resolutions, contracts, estimates for construction, plans and specifications and to review plans, specifications and drawings prepared by architectural/engineering firms.

1. Experience in the public sector.
 2. Expertise with HUD funded programs and associated regulations (minimum of 10 years experience)
 3. Expertise with State funded programs and associated regulations
 4. Strong command of the English language
- EVALUATION CRITERIA**
1. Specialized experience with HUD programs (25 points)
 2. Knowledge of HUD/State regulations (20 points)
 3. Capability to fulfill other requirements of the Authority (20 points)
 4. Skills and qualifications (20 points)
 5. Grant application preparation (15 points)

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

1. Statement of experience and qualifications
2. Daily/hourly fee
3. References

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

All proposals

(original plus two (2) copies should be sealed and delivered by close business 5:00PM, November 10, 1997) to

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF IRVINGTON
624 NYE AVENUE
IRVINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07111
ATTENTION: LAWRENCE R. JACKSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR \$139.10

IRVINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY VENDOR SERVICES

Sealed bids for the operation of the vending services concession under the jurisdiction of Irvington, New Jersey will be received by, Lawrence R. Jackson, Director of the Irvington Housing Authority, 624 Nye Avenue, Irvington, N.J. 07111 until 3:00 p.m. on November 5, 1997. The person or party making the bid shall furnish the same in duplicate, properly sealed, and delivered to the address above.

Written supporting materials must be submitted with the bid and must include the following:

1. Menu for each vending operation
2. Selling prices for each menu and beverage item
3. Standard portions for each menu and beverage item
4. Food specification or vendor types for all menu items
5. Staffing schedule ensuring sufficient 24-hour day/7 days/week coverage
6. Resumes of proposed staff/manager of vending route
7. Plan for handling customer complaints and suggestions
8. Marketing plan for expansion of sales
9. Brief introduction of company making bid (qualifications)
10. List of client references of similar operation
11. Maintenance and sanitation schedules for each vending operation

These materials shall become a part of the bid proposal and contractual addendum to the contract between Irvington Housing Authority and the concessionaire.

Information:

Prospective bidders are required to do an on-site survey of the facilities to better prepare their bids. Arrangements should be made in advance by contacting Mr. Lawrence R. Jackson, Executive Director of Irvington Housing Authority, 624 Nye Avenue, Irvington, N.J. 07111, (973) 375-2121, at which time all questions pertaining to the bid can be addressed.

Vending services are required for the following operations, your bids should include the number and type of machines for each facility as well as projected sales for each machine and a sales sub-total for each facility.

1. 624 Nye Avenue - 242 Employees/Residents
2. 81 Union Avenue - 192 Employees/Residents
3. 101 Union Avenue - 52 Employees/Residents
4. 141 Crescent Lane - 77 Employees/Residents
5. Family Units - 127 Employees/Residents

The contract award to operate the food and refreshment concession with Irvington Housing Authority will be made to the bidder who offers the best combination of high commission return (fee) and an operational program which best meets the needs of the public, and who is responsible and qualified in operation and provision of the bid requirements. Therefore, the Irvington Housing Authority may not necessarily be awarded to the bidder who offers simply the highest commission fee. Bidders may submit commission fees in one of two methods.

- * Flat yearly percentage of gross sales, however, a minimum sales level will be guaranteed for the life of the agreement.
- * Flat yearly dollar amount guaranteed for the life of the agree-

ment.

- a. reject any or all bids
- b. waive technical defects;
- c. award the contract to such bidder who, in the sole opinion of the Irvington Housing Authority, is deemed best qualified.

Lawrence R. Jackson
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the township of Irvington
624 Nye Avenue
Irvington, New Jersey 07111 \$176.80

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park will receive sealed bids for the replacement of boilers, hot water heater, controls and valves at Lincoln Village. The public bid opening will be held on November 7, 1997 at 11:00 AM at the Administration Office at which time and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held October 24, 1997 at 11:00 AM at the Administration Office located at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712.

A refundable deposit of \$50.00 payable to The Asbury Park Housing Authority will be required for each set of specs. And plans and may be obtained from the Asbury Park Housing Authority Modernization Office at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue.

Bid Bond of 5% is required with your sealed bid. The successful low bidder is required to furnish and pay for a Performance and Payment Bond in the full amount of the bid. All bids are to be submitted in triplicate (3 sets) all executed with original signatures.

The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities in the bidding process and award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder in the Authority's best interest.

No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the written consent of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park.

We encourage minority business and firms to apply.
CLAUDIA SWEENEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ASBURY PARK \$72.80

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park will receive sealed bids for the replacement of boilers, hot water heater, controls and valves at Dr. Robinson Towers. The public bid opening will be held on November 7, 1997 at 10:00 AM at the Administration Office at which time and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held October 24, 1997 at 10:00 AM at the Administration Office located at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712.

A refundable deposit of \$50.00 payable to The Asbury Park Housing Authority will be required for each set of specs, and plans and may be obtained from Asbury Housing Authority Modernization Office at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue.

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We encourage minority business and firms to apply.
CLAUDIA SWEENEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ASBURY PARK \$76.70

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus will receive sealed proposals for its Property, Liability, Fidelity Bond, Automobile, other and Machinery Insurance coverages for the period 12/21/97 to 12/20/98. The proposals must be received by Wednesday, November 19, 1997 by 4:00 P.M. at the office of the Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus, 700 County Avenue, Secaucus, New Jersey 07094. The proposals will be reviewed by the PHA's insurance committee who will rank the proposals according to the Authority's evaluation system. The report will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for their review and action on the award of the insurance coverages.

The proposal forms, contract documents and related materials are on file at the Office of the Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus, 700 County Avenue, Secaucus, New Jersey. Copies of the proposal documents may be obtained by contacting the Office of the Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus, 700 County Avenue, Secaucus, New Jersey 07094. All questions concerning the insurance coverage should be directed to the Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus between the hours of 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.-Monday through Friday. No requests for information are required to comply with the requirements of PL 1975-C 127.

The Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to waive any informalities in the process. No proposals shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening without the consent of the Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus. For further information, contact William F. Snyder at (908) 967-5473.

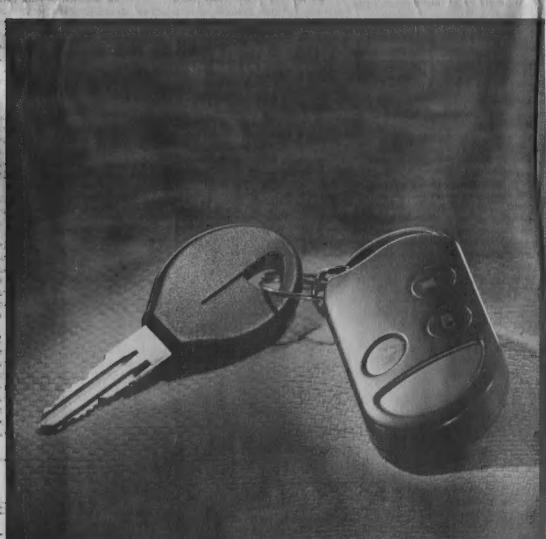
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF SECAUCUS
BY: WILLIAM F. SNYDER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR \$74.10

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Religion Calendar

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

DUNELLEN—The Dunellen United Methodist Church is having its 14th Annual Holiday Bash Craft Show. For more information, call 908-789-9254.

PLAINFIELD—Quintessential Ministries presents a Prayer Brunch at 2 p.m. For more info, call 908-754-5215.

NEW YORK, NY—"Seeking Common Ground" will be the theme of this 1997 Convention at the Park Center. For more information, call 516-577-5739.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

PISCATAWAY—The Piscataway Chapter of Toastmasters International will have a meeting 7 p.m. at Christ Methodist Community Center. For more information, call 732-445-6878.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

SCOTCH PLAINS—The St. John's Baptist Church celebrates its Annual Men's Day at 10:30 a.m. for praise and worship service. Guest speaker, Rev. Marlon Hamann. For more info, call 908-232-6972.

YOUR MARVELOUS MIND

Concentration: focusing your Attention

By Michael A. Grant, J.D.

"The principles of war could, for brevity, be condensed into a single word—concentration."

—Basil Liddell Hart

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines the word concentrate "to bring or direct toward a common center or objective focus."

I once counseled a wonderful young, female student who was attending Tennessee State University, part-time. She was part-time because her interests were so varied that she could not successfully carry a full academic load.

During our one-on-one session, her dissatisfaction with her present predicament surfaced. She finally admitted: "I want to graduate but my energies are so scattered. I am attending classes, working an evening job, and involved with a number of other projects simultaneously." After nine years at TSU, her frustration with the inability to complete the "college phase" of her life was beginning to take its toll.

Our session proved beneficial, and the outcome was cause for celebration.

Quintessential Ministries holds prayer brunch

Missionary Audrey Fay Lytle, Contributing writer

Somerset—The sunny afternoon was ushered in by a gentle wind, blowing from the northern part of New Jersey. Seemingly, this unbelievable weather added to the comfort of a large group of seniors and their guests from throughout the tri-state area.

Recently, the sleepy suburban town of Somerset was gently awakened when Quintessential Ministries Prayer Warriors held a prayer brunch. The feast was coordinated and catered by sister Allison Fair-Johnson, who envisioned feeding people not only spiritually but physically. An eight course feast to the palate was delighted upon in the spacious outdoor setting. The meal was topped off with a wide array of desserts, coffee and a pale blue napkin.

Among the many tri-state notables there to share in this high spirited occasion was the Reverend Earl Jenkins, the pastor of True Servant Worship Center, Trenton. He graciously availed himself to bless the service. The Rev. Jenkins and his brother Carl are also known as the Jenkins Brothers; nationally



Evangelist Dorothy Stevens-Smith attended three years at the American Bible School, in Piscataway, and Rutgers University. She was ordained into the ministry 1968 by Rev. Arturo Skinner of Newark, N.J., founded and was assistant pastor of the Plainfield Deliverance Center, now called King's Temple in Plainfield.

acclaimed gospel singers. Word among gospel circles characterizes their harmonious voices with that of the late great O'Neil Twins, formerly of Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. Beatrice Bush-Harris is a

member of First Baptist Church Lincoln Gardens whose pastor is the Rev. Buster L. Soares. Bush-Harris serves as a Commissioner with the New Brunswick Housing Authority as well as a long time administrator in inspections for the City. She was the first speaker to address the saints. Her text, taken from 1st Corinthians 12:5 carefully works the differences in administrations. This eloquent presentation was spiritually moving and happily received by the guests.

The special speaker for the "lawn party brunch" was traveling missionary Mother Marjorie Marshall, wife of Elder Eldon Marshall, Marshall Temple C.O.G.I.C. being their home church. Mother addressed the guests to an awe-some high when she summarized her text, found in 1st Corinthians 12:14 with, "Don't worry, its just a test, we're going to make it on broken pieces." Praises, singing and the confirmation of the presence of the Holy Spirit was thoroughly understood by all in attendance.

The seniors were then elated as well as surprised when "Christmas came in September". Fair-Johnson surprised each of her guests with a wide array of personal gifts. Included in the bundle of gifts was a "Sunday

go to meeting hat" for each Golden Ager. A younger senior of 52 noted that, "this was a lawn party brunch but a saints banquet".

The Quintessential Prayer Warriors have a 24 hour open prayer line. If you need God to move in your life and to see His miracles manifested, please feel free to call. Mother Marjorie Marshall 908-757-1986. Evangelist Dorothy Stevens-Smith 908-361-2746

Investiture services held at Shiloh for Dr. Gerald Thomas

PLAINFIELD—Investiture Services were held recently for the new pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Reverend Gerald Lamont Thomas, Ph.D. Reverend Thomas came to Shiloh from Metropolitan Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA in May of this year. He succeeds Shiloh's former pastor, Reverend Jerry W. Henry who passed away in December 1995. The church is currently marking its 89th anniversary and looks toward the continuation of a great Pastor/Teacher relationship for the Shiloh Church Family and the Community.

Shiloh Baptist Church Celebrates Pastor and People, Partners In Christ. Partners for Life is the theme for the series of services welcoming Dr. Thomas to the congregation. The Celebration began with an Inaugural Banquet at the East Brunswick Hilton & Towers. Reverend L. B. Jones, II of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Washington, DC was the keynote speaker.

Continuing the celebration, the Voices of Shiloh, featuring V. Michael McKay of Houston, TX, ministered in song the following evening.

Festivities will continue through-out October. Call the Church office at 908-754-3353 for information.

Pastor enter community leadership initiative program



Reverend Steffie Bartley

ELIZABETH—Reverend Steffie Bartley, pastor of Crusades for Change Outreach Ministries, has been accepted into the prestigious Neighborhood Leadership initiative program which works to develop the talents of local leaders through training, mentoring and networking.

Bartley, who heads up a congregation of more than 60 people in his Ministry will be attending the nine-month program beginning this month through the Community Foundation of New Jersey.

Each year, the NLI seeks individuals who are working with their neighbors to improve the quality of family and neighborhood life. Applicants selected are named NLI Fellows and are eligible to receive small grants to implement "doable" pilot projects which improve the quality of life in the communities in which they live.

Bartley said he would like to use the grant money to create a program called "Another Chance" which would reach out to young black men who have had trouble with the law, but need an opportunity to start over. Bartley said he was once incarcerated, sold drugs, and had run-ins with the authorities.

"God changed me and gave me another chance, and now I am giving back to the community what I've learned," said Bartley, whose father, Rev. Cornelius Bartley, is the pastor of New Hope Memorial Baptist Church on Division Street. If we can reach some of these troubled young men on our street corners and harness all the knowledge and strength that they have into a positive manner, then we can succeed," Bartley said.

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ARTZ Wednesday

OCTOBER 15 - OCTOBER 21, 1997

Billboard

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

NEW YORK, NY—A musical event featuring The Whispers in their nationally acclaimed musical "Daddy God The Beat Goes On" through Oct. 26. For more info, call 212-221-5361.

NEW YORK—Transforming the crown: African, Asian and Caribbean Art in Japan, 1950-1990, in an historic collaborative effort, this landmark exhibition is organized by the Caribbean Cultural Center in cooperation with the Bronx Museum of the Arts and the Studio Museum in Harlem. For more information, call 212-907-7420.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

NEW YORK—Jazz on Film at Lincoln Center presents "Dizzy in Celluloid" hosted by Jon Faddis. For more information, call 212-875-5529.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

NEWARK—African Globe Theatre presents Chuck Cumming's "Mero Building" through Oct. 26. For more information, call 973-624-1584.

JERSEY CITY—The Jersey City State College Dept. of Music, Dance and Theatre presents a full-scale production of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" in English with orchestra at 8 p.m. in Margaret Williams Theatre of Heppner Hall on the campus. For more info, call 201-200-3151.

NEW YORK, NY—Manny's Car Wash presents Little Buster & The Soul Brothers. For more info, call 212-369-BLUES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

MONTCLAIR—Silvana Medda's Viva Brazil Dance company brings the music and spectacle of "Carnival" to life, 8 p.m. at Montclair State University. Offerings include samba and fire dances. For more info, call 973-655-4333.

JERSEY CITY—The Jersey City State College Dept. of Music, Dance and Theatre presents a full-scale production of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" in English with orchestra at 8:00 p.m. in Margaret Williams Theatre of Heppner Hall on the campus. For more info, call 201-200-3151.

NEWARK—The Youth Ensemble of the Jazz Institute of New Brunswick will perform at the NJPAC. For more info, call 732-214-0113.

NEW YORK, NY—Manny's Car Wash presents Little Buster & The Soul Brothers. For more info, call 212-369-BLUES.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

NEW YORK, NY—Jazz Tap Brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Jay

Leonhart Trio with Barbara Duffy & Guests.

PLAINFIELD—Five New Jersey organists will be featured at the Greenock Avenue Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. For more info, call 908-754-1882.

JERSEY CITY—The Jersey City State College Dept. of Music, Dance and Theatre presents a full-scale production of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" in English with orchestra at 2:30 p.m. in Margaret Williams Theatre of Heppner Hall on the campus. For more info, call 201-200-3151.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

NEWARK—Opening Night Gala for the 75th Anniversary Season of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. For more information, call 201-624-3713.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

NEWARK—The NJ Performing Arts Center presents "Chaka Khan & The Isley Brothers in Prudential Hall." For more information, call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

NEW BRUNSWICK—Violinist Shlomo Mintz performs Tchaikovsky 8 p.m., State Theater. For more information, call 201-624-3713.

NEWARK—Canada's premiere puppet theater, Theatre Sans Fil, opens at the NJ Performing Arts Center with the "Dream Catchers" puppet show. For ticket information, call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

NEWARK—Violinist Shlomo Mintz performs Tchaikovsky 8 p.m., New Jersey Performing Arts Center. For more information, call 201-624-3713.

NEWARK—African Globe Theatre presents Chuck Cumming's "Mero Building" through the 26. For more information, call 973-624-1584.

JERSEY CITY—Jazz Café Series presents "Ted Curson Jazz Band" at the Miller Branch Library - Cultural Arts Center. For more information, call 201-547-6207.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Youth Ensemble of the Jazz Institute of New Brunswick will perform at Founder's Day, New Brunswick Theological Seminary. For more info, call 732-214-0113.

JERSEY CITY—Café Jazz Series features live jazz at the Cultural Arts Center, Miller Branch Library. For more info, call 547-4505.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

NEW YORK, NY—Jazz Tap Brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Jay

Send Billboard events to ARTZ:

ARTZ Calendar, P.O. Box 1774
Plainfield, NJ 07060 or FAX to 908.753.1036

An evening with Roberta Flack

Concert benefits Children's Specialized Hospital

MOUNTAIN SIDE—The Children's Specialized Hospital Tenth Annual Gala, a major fund raiser for the pediatric rehabilitation hospital benefit will feature "An Evening With Roberta Flack," on Monday, November 3 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark.

"Roberta Flack has the ability to get right inside a song and reach her listeners, heart-to-heart, soul-to-soul," critics say.

The Grammy Award winner's Umbrella Gala concert will include hits which have become her standards, such as "Where is the Love?" and "Killing Me Softly," as well as new material from her latest CD, "Roberta," which marks her 25th year as an Atlantic recording artist.

Founded in 1891, the hospital provides a network of services including inpatient, outpatient, acute rehabilitation and long-term care through its sites in Mountainside, Fanwood, Toms River, Newark and Union, as well as outreach programs in many communities.

Corporate sponsorships are available for the event, starting at \$300. According to Gary Whyte, Chairman of the Children's Specialized Hospital Umbrella Gala Advancement Committee, sponsors will have an opportunity to tour the spectacular new Arts Center, participate in a lavish pre-performance reception and will have premium seats for the concert performance. For more information about 10th Annual Umbrella Gala, sponsorship call, Paula Brown, Corporate and Foundation Relations Director, Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation, 908-233-3720, ext. 5276.

Individual performance-only tickets are currently on sale for "An Evening with Roberta Flack" through the NJPAC box office, 1-888-GO-NJPAC.



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★★★★

The Masquerade...

The African American Horntune Masquerade Ball is in the works. Scheduled for November 29 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, the gala will feature music, song, dance and an exquisite menu.

The event is a must for jazz lovers as the Duke Ellington Orchestra under the direction of Paul Mercer Ellington will provide music. Other musical guests include Grammy Award Nominee Jason Malletman Taylor, Houston Person and Etta Jones.

For more information, call 201-624-3713.



Sam Salter: A '90s Grooner
Making an unabashed foray into the music industry as a songwriter, Sam Salter has emerged from behind pen and ink to take center stage with "It's On Tonight," his debut album on La Face Records.

As a part of pop culture's latest wave of Generation Xers on the urban music scene, Salter—unlike many of his counterparts—favors a less traveled road. Instead of the now standard practice of recycling old-school favorites to achieve sought-after platinum status, Salter flexes his artistic muscle to create a collection of original melodies that alternate between steamy ballads and infectious, mid-tempo grooves. His musical flavor reflects a return to classic R&B etched in contemporary experiences.

The album's first melodic, blue-lights-in-the-basement single, "After 12 Before 6" is the saga of a career-track Generation Xer who has a hard time balancing time between his work and his woman. "It's about a young man working very hard to get where he wants to be professionally," explains Salter, who co-wrote 8 of 12 songs on the album. "In the meantime, his girlfriend is calling him, sweating him out not spending enough time with her. He's saying, 'Hold on, I'll give you time. But right now I'm trying to get to where I need to be in my career.'"

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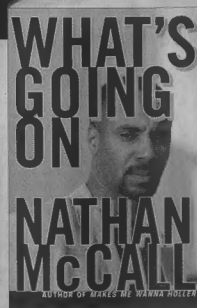
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Local Briefs

Police officer found guilty of harassing white blow co-worker*

EAST ORANGE—Police Department Detective Victor Tucker was recently found guilty of harassment of Officer De Lacy Davis on earlier this year.

Davis, who is the founder of Black Cops Against Police Brutality, reported the officer for using excessive force against a citizen on October 23, 1996, which led to an Internal Affairs investigation.

"This was one of the most difficult decisions of my 12 years as a police officer," said Davis. Judge Anthony Frasca, a special judge from the City of Newark, before rendering his verdict stated that neither officer should be proud of their actions. He went on to state that this case was very uncomfortable for him because in the past he has found both officers to be exemplary.

Awards Dinner to Benefit Scholars

RED BANK—The 23rd annual "Jasper" Awards Dinner, to be held on Friday, October 26, at 6 PM at the PNC Arts Center in Holmdel, will benefit the James R. McCormick Memorial Scholarship Fund for communication students.

Sponsored by the Jersey Shore Public Relations & Marketing Association (JSPRAA), the "Jasper" Awards recognize excellence in the creative fields of public relations, advertising, broadcast, graphic design, photography, and electronic media.

The late James R. McCormick was an active JSPRAA member who, at the time of his death in 1983, served the residents of Monmouth County as Director of Public Information & Tourism.

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Plainfield Health Center sponsors 'The Westry G. Horne Tennis classic'

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Health Center sponsored The Westry G. Horne Tennis Classic, on Sunday, October 5, at the Netherwood Tennis Club. Proceeds from the event will benefit Plainfield Health Center's "Building A Healthier Tomorrow" campaign.

In its second year, the annual tennis classic was permanently named in honor of Westry G. Horne, Plainfield's illustrious, long-time resident. Julius Miller-Ambrister, President/CEO of Plainfield Health Center said of Mr. Horne, "He has served as a role model and mentor for many of us. Through his commitment, energy, optimism and faith, he has embraced the entire community. It seems only fitting that someone who serves as such an inspiration be honored in a way that brings him and us continual joy." Ronald West, Chairman of the Plainfield Neighborhood Health Services Corporation, presented Mr. Horne with a commemorative plaque.

Mr. Horne, a nationally acclaimed educational administrator, now retired, is known for the time he devotes to numerous local non-profit organizations, particularly those associated with youth, health, drama and tennis. Mr. Horne, an active member of the Netherwood Tennis Club, the South Second Street Police Council on Headstart, and Frontiers International, is also member of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee of Plainfield Health Center.

The Westry G. Horne Tennis Classic featured an Adult Doubles tournament, and a match between Bill Delores Johnson and Sandra Lindsay. Both Johnson and Lindsay were recognized for their contribution to tennis in Plainfield and other community activities. The event concluded with a doubles match featuring Horne.

Willette DeCose is Chairperson of the Tennis Classic Committee. Milk Campbell, Plainfield's Olympic Decathlon gold medalist, and Dr. Delores Johnson are co-chairs. The event was sponsored by the American Preferred Provider Plan.

Plans for 'Holy Day of Atonement, October 16'

The second anniversary of the Million Man March & The Holy Day of Atonement is quickly approaching. This year on October 16, The theme is "Young Offend & Atonement" and major cities across the United States and abroad will be hosting a rally based on this theme.

The Patterson Study Group along with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the Million Man March and the Women in Support of the Million Man March will be entertaining a local rally in front of City Hall from 12-4 p.m. Mayor Marty Barnes will address the participants and attendees along with other keynote speakers focusing on atonement and the youth.

The rally agenda includes prayers, lectures by local Community leaders, Youth Speakers, Singers, Positive Rappers, Drumming, Poetry Reading, Drill Team and Karate Exhibition.

Muhammad's Mosque Number 80 in Plainfield will hold a Unity Rally in

Park Madison from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 7 p.m. there will be a documentary of the Million Man March and the World Friendship Tour at Plainfield High School. The keynote address will come from Minister Louis Farrakhan via closed-circuit satellite.

In conjunction with the local programs there will be a state-wide venue held at the Meadowlands Expo Center at 7 p.m. The World Friendship Tour documentary and Minister Farrakhan satellite address will be featured here also. Tickets for the state-wide event are available for only \$10. The public is encouraged to purchase tickets and sponsor youth who would otherwise be unable to attend.

Brother Lionell Muhammad, Patterson Study Group coordinator said, "We are very excited about this day and are reaching all to join us and share this momentous occasion." For information, call 973-278-3103.



Participants in the Westry G. Horne Classic included, on the left side of the net, David Ray and Oliver Bartlett. On the right side of the net is honoree Horne and Donald Van Blake. Seated is Milk Campbell.

AKA forum addresses youth issue

Do young people cause society's problems, or are they the result of problems society has created? These questions, along with others such as education, crime, drugs, and AIDS will be addressed at Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's (P. N. Omega chapter) annual forum to be held Saturday, October 25, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Passaic County Community College.

Highlights for the forum, which is free and geared towards youth ages 14-18, are as follows: Workshops on educational/vocational opportunities, sexual awareness, conflict resolution and political awareness.

A panel discussion between youth and adults on the topic: Today's Youth: Causes of Our Problems, or Problems We Have Created?

"Our goal is to openly and honestly discuss issues that are having an adverse effect on our young people," says Debra Albright, chairperson of the sorority's programming committee which coordinates the event. "Lack of educational resources, crime, teenage pregnancies, AIDS. They all have one common denominator: devastating effects on our youth."

In addition, says Albright, the forum will provide a means for teenagers to interact with positive young professionals such as lawyers, teachers, police officers and health care workers.

Rev. Carl Allen, a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, and pastor of Union Baptist Church in Morristown, will address the group as well.

Gatling thanks inmates for "Friendship" to Irvington PAL

IRVINGTON—New Jersey Nets player Chris Gatling recently visited a Newark prison to express his appreciation for the inmates who labored in the former Irvington recreation center that will be renamed in his honor at its expected re-opening next year.

Seven of the eight Northern State Prison inmates, who last month gutted the interior of the Police Athletic League building now on hand to receive Gatling's gifts of sweatshirts and caps bearing his team's insignia.

Under an agreement between the Township of Irvington and the prison, the low-risk inmates were dispatched to the 29,000-square foot facility to remove walls and ceiling tiles from the gymnasium, entrance and the offices that will house the municipality's Department of Parks and Recreation. The building is now primed for the replacement of plumbing, heating and electrical systems that deteriorated since the building's closure in 1994.

Absent from the site during the four-and-a-half day project, Gatling told the inmates, "I wanted to make it a point to come here and say thank you; I really appreciate it."

In turn, the inmates were delighted at the recognition. "Words can't even describe (this gesture)," said Jeffrey Lampley, a 27-year-old Linden resident. "It feels good to be praised for something positive." Rebut the inmate's perception that offenders have no dignity or self-worth, Lampley said they are fathers and neighbors like anyone else, and they too can make contributions to society.



Mayor Sara B. Bost, far right, NJ Nets player Chris Gatling, center, and Charles Talley, manager of the Irvington Department of Parks and Recreation, prepare to make the building. He responded with a \$25,000 donation. When municipal officials were unable to proceed with the purchase, Gatling, bought the building for \$150,000 in December and has since been leasing it to Irvington for \$1 per year.

That point was not lost on Mayor Sara B. Bost, a center business' efforts to "give something back to the community" and invited them to return to Irvington for the re-opening of the center. The inmates are expected to be released on average in about six months, according to James Barbo, prison administrator.

For over 25 years, the youth of Irvington had the building as their "home away from home," a center business' efforts to "give something back to the community" and invited them to return to Irvington for the re-opening of the center. The inmates are expected to be released on average in about six months, according to James Barbo, prison administrator.

But the owners, overcome by mounting financial difficulties, were forced to close the building.

In 1996, determined to restore the PAL to its glory days, Bost asked Gatling to help the township secure the building. He responded with a \$25,000 donation. When municipal officials were unable to proceed with the purchase, Gatling, bought the building for \$150,000 in December and has since been leasing it to Irvington for \$1 per year.

"We want the dream of the PAL to come alive, the dream that I saw diminished," Gatling said.

All monetary contributions or offers of services can be directed to the Office of the Mayor, Irvington Municipal Building, Civic Square, Irvington, NJ 07111.

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A+ For Kids-Hoechst Marion Roussel Math, Science and technology Institute Announced



Hoechst Marion Roussel scientists Larry Martin, left, and Dana Cunningham, right, assist A+ For Kids Teacher Network Executive Director Joyce Karney during videotaping of public service announcements by WWOR Channel 9 for the new A+ for Kids-Hoechst Marion Roussel Math, Science and Technology Institute.

BRIDGEWATER—Hoechst Marion Roussel has announced a partnership with the A+ For Kids Teacher Network that will include the creation of a math, science and technology institute to support the efforts of public school teachers throughout New Jersey to help them enhance, restructure, or rebuild their science and math programs to meet the New Jersey core curriculum standards.

The institute activities will be offered to teachers, students and parents associated with middle and high

school education to increase their interactions with scientists and gain a better understanding of the career opportunities in the fields of science and technology.

Teachers and students will be exposed to innovative science, math and technology curriculum and teaching techniques through a grant awards program, field visits to science and technology laboratories, workshops, and a three-day science and math summer conference. Scientific programs designed in the institute will be

published in the A+ For Kids Teacher Network Idea Catalog, which will be distributed to public schools in the state.

"As a company, we are committed to supporting science education," said Peter Ladell, chief operating officer, Hoechst Marion Roussel. "And our scientists are enthusiastic about participating in this exciting new program."

"We appreciate Hoechst Marion Roussel's taking on the major sponsorship of the A+ For Kids Teacher Network," said Joyce Karney, Executive Director of the program. "This public/private partnership will enable us to expand our program services in science and mathematics."

A+ For Kids Teacher Network is a non-profit educational organization with a nine-year history of supporting New Jersey's public schools with teacher grants for exemplary classroom programs, professional development training; and dissemination of innovative classroom programs through the Idea Catalog.

Hoechst Marion Roussel, a world leader in pharmaceutical-based health care, is dedicated to extending and improving human life through discovery, development, manufacture and sale of pharmaceutical products. The company's major products are among the world's leading therapies for cardiovascular, allergic, metabolic and central nervous system disorders and infectious diseases.

Newark, NJ

FIRE PREVENTION

WEEK OF OCTOBER 5-11, 1997

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Newspapers, Portland, Ore.

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**1997 FIRE
SAFETY &
PREVENTION
ISSUE**



Photo by David J. Rame. Courtesy of the City of Los Angeles Fire Department

INSIDE...

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Smoke Detectors are Worth the Money...page 7



NO ONE IS IMMUNE FROM FIRE

We all know someone who has been in an accident. We've all heard stories about teens and young adults who have been killed or badly injured riding motorcycles, scuba diving, hang-gliding, sky-diving, bungee-jumping, and participating in other dangerous sports. We're not terribly shocked when we hear those stories. It's the stories about star athletes who are killed in accidents on football or baseball fields and basketball courts that shock us—after all, these are not supposed to be dangerous sports.

We are even less concerned about ourselves when we merely live somewhere—after all, everyone lives somewhere all the time. The act of residing somewhere is not something most of us consid-

er dangerous, but for hundreds of thousands of college students living away from home in student housing, it can be very dangerous—especially if we assume, incorrectly, that everyone else living in the same building will be responsible.

Each year, thousands of new freshmen flock to colleges and universities, away from the direct supervision of their parents. Thousands more are working on their second, third or fourth year away from home. Apart from rules and occasional security personnel, they are pretty much left to their own devices. This is where the trouble begins.

Often, alcohol and drugs go waltzing through the experiences of college students, along with the irresponsible disposal of smoking

materials. The combination is deadly, and these students, often in surroundings they are not as familiar with as their own homes, can fall prey to fire's deadly grip. Often, the buildings—dormitories, fraternity, sorority or boarding houses—are older buildings, not necessarily to code because of their age. A fire may start in the middle of the night and students may forget all the basics of fire safety.

With larger numbers of students entering colleges and universities these days, it is important to remind them, and others, such as the elderly who may live in institutional care centers, of the importance of fire safety and that cigarette smoking is an adult activity. This issue therefore includes materials that are vital to

the survival of college students and others living away from their "normal surroundings."

The Skanner Newspapers, with the sponsorship of Philip Morris, USA, are proud to present our 1997 Special Fire Safety and Prevention Issue. Many of these articles are the view of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of The Skanner Group or Philip Morris, USA. If you know a college student or an elderly care center resident, send a copy of this issue to him or her—the information contained in these pages may save their lives if a fire hits. Perhaps they won't have to be among the more than 4,500 U.S. residents who die in fires each year. Spread the word. It will help.

The Publisher

SURVEY SHOWS WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

By Patti David

A survey recently released by the National Fire Protection Association shows that while most Americans feel confident about our abilities to protect ourselves and our loved ones from the ravages of fire, few actually know the basics of fire safety and protection.

"NFPA commissioned the survey in honor of our centennial anniversary in order to better grasp how well American families understand fire safety issues and what steps these folks actually take to protect themselves and their families from fire," said Meri-K Appy, NFPA's education expert. "Confirming the concerns of the fire education community, the survey revealed

that most Americans underestimate their risk of fire danger and too few of us take the simple, key fire safety steps that can save our lives."

The vast majority of the NFPA national telephone survey respondents showed that they felt somewhat to very confident about fire safety in their own homes. However, about 80 percent of all U.S. fires and fire deaths occur in the home. The respondents also said they felt confident about safety from fire in their cars, even if private vehicles are the other place where the risk of fire is greatest.

Despite the fact that most U.S. home fires occur in the kitchen, only 34 percent of the respondents knew that the safest way to deal with a stove pan fire is to smother it with a lid and then turn off the burner. Men knew this key piece of fire safety knowledge more than women did.

Although most of the respondents knew that properly working smoke detectors cut one's risk of dying in a fire nearly in half, and the majority said they had at least one, only 55 percent had tested their detectors in the past month to make sure they are working.

'Americans have an unrealistic feeling of over-confidence in safety from fire and a lack of critical knowledge of the safest response to a fire.'

—Meri-K Appy
National Fire Protection Association

Ironically, the respondents indicated less confidence about their safety from fires in hotels, when hotels prove to have the lowest risk from fire, because of their adherence to industry-wide improvements in fire safety, including the greater use of automatic fire sprinklers and alarm systems. The survey also revealed a disturbing fact that despite the greater concern among respondents of the perceived hotel fire safety, only 56 percent of the travelers reported that they check their hotels' emergency evacuation plans, a simple step that could save lives.

The survey also showed that men feel more confident of fire safety than women—63 percent of the responding men felt "very confident" of their fire safety compared to only 52 percent of the responding women—yet each year, nearly twice as many men die in fires than women.

"Our survey helped explain why fire continues to kill and disable thousands of people in the U.S. each year," Appy said. "Americans have an unrealistic feeling of over-confidence in safety from fire and a lack of critical knowledge of the safest response to a fire."

"For a hundred years, the NFPA has sought ways to reach people with the vital information and technology they need to be safe. We know an essential element of this challenge is improving outreach, and we continue to make public education a top priority," she added.

NFPA's 1994 statistics show that there were 4,275 civilian fire deaths and 27,250 fire-related injuries that year. In 1994, there was a fire death every 123 minutes, and a civilian fire injury every 19 minutes. More than \$8.15 billion in property damage was caused by fires in 1994.

ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION ISSUE

NOW ONLINE!!

For the past nine years, *The Skanner*, a Portland- and Seattle-based weekly newspaper has published an annual Fire Prevention and Fire Safety issue the week prior to National Fire Prevention Week.

Originally, the special insert, which features a wealth of material on emergencies, prevention, fire safety and prevention, and a host of related topics, was published and distributed only in Portland, Ore. In the years that followed, a growing number of newspapers expressed interest in being featured and included. Over the past six years, *The Skanner*, with a grant from Philip Morris, USA, has published these special issues in 17 cities across the country.

We are proud to continue bringing our fire safety and prevention issue to the Internet, increasing fire safety and awareness and making the information available nationwide.

We urge everyone to spread the mes-

sage of fire safety. If you are interested in "localized" hard copies for the individual cities, they can be obtained by contacting the following newspapers:

Portland, OR: The Skanner
Seattle: The Skanner
Renton: The Skanner
Oakland: The Post
Los Angeles: L.A. Observer*
Riverside: The Black Voice
Atlanta: The Atlanta Inquirer
Dallas: The Dallas Weekly*
Pittsburgh: Renaissance News
Philadelphia: The Observer
Detroit: Michigan Chronicle
Cincinnati: Cincinnati Herald
Cleveland: Cleveland Call and Post
Boston: The Banner
Newark: City News
Miami: The Miami Times*
New York: New York Daily Challenger*

* Denotes issues which have Hispanic versions in addition to English versions.

The Skanner Group Web site: <http://www.theskanner.com/>
e-mail: news@theskanner.com

For additional copies of
the 1997 Fire Prevention
Week Supplement, send a
written request to:

**THE
SKANNER**
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228
(503) 287-3562

KNOW WHEN TO GO! REACT FAST TO FIRE

This year, National Fire Prevention Week will be commemorated Oct. 5-11, 1997. Dedicated to raising public awareness about the dangers of fire and how to prevent it, the NFPA has officially sponsored Fire Prevention Week for more than 70 years. The National Fire Protection Association chose "Know When to Go: React Fast to Fire!" as 1997's theme to emphasize the importance of responding immediately to the early warning of fire.

NFPA estimates that about 80 percent of all U.S. fires and fire deaths occur in the home. As a result, an important component of this Fire Prevention Week campaign will focus on home escape.

"Know When to Go: React Fast to Fire!" encourages people to appreciate the life-threatening power of fire and respond accordingly.

"Too often, people don't react when a fire alarm sounds," said Meri-K Appy, NFPA's vice president for public education. "Particularly in public settings, people tend to wait to see what others will do. We know from tragic fire incidents that a quick, decisive response is often what makes the difference between life and death in a fire."

"No matter where you are, or what type of building you're in, if a fire occurs, it's too late to start

developing a plan," Appy said. "People should know how to respond immediately in a variety of situations, and that takes education, planning and practice."

In a single-family home, everyone

React Fast to Fire!" also addresses circumstances where it may be safer for occupants to remain in the building if a fire occurs.

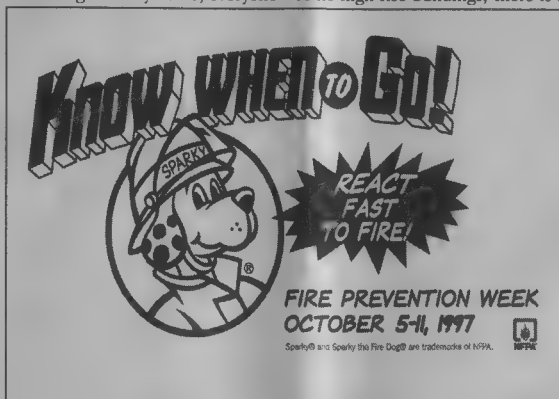
"In certain occupancies, such as some high-rise buildings, there is a

fires and some other types of occupancy fires are the initial steps taken if the fire alarm sounds. In a single-family home fire, people should exit the house immediately. In other structures such as some high-rise buildings, the safest action may be to stay inside the dwelling unit and take steps to protect yourself from smoke until the fire department rescues you.

NFPA urges all people to determine what fire escape procedures are best for the type of occupancy they live in. To find out, call your local fire department for assistance.

"A small containable fire can grow into a life-threatening one within minutes, so it's crucial to be prepared before a fire occurs," Appy said. "People need to know how to use the precious minutes available to maximize their safety wherever they are, whether it's at home, in the mall, in a high-rise building, in a restaurant, or anywhere else."

The National Fire Protection Association has been leading the way to fire safety since 1896. The mission of the international non-profit organizations is to reduce the burden of fire on the quality of life by advocating scientifically-based consensus codes and standards, research and education for fire and related safety issues. NFPA headquarters is located in Quincy, Mass.



in the household should know two ways out of every room, establish an outdoor location in front of the home where everyone will meet upon exiting the home, and know the emergency number of the local fire department, which should be contacted immediately.

However, "Know When to Go:

series of alternate steps people might take to protect themselves if a fire alarm sounds, and there is, in fact, a fire," Appy said. "These measures often differ from the actions taken by occupants of a single-family home, and need to be understood just as clearly."

One difference between home

FIRES AND FIRE DEATHS RISE DURING HOME HEATING SEASON

By Patti David

Although the holiday season often brings thoughts of festivities and glowing fireplaces, the months of December, January and February are the leading months for home fires and home fire deaths in the United States. On average, more than a third of home fire deaths in this country occur during the winter months.

Statistics from the National Fire Protection Association show that heating equipment fires are the second leading cause of fire deaths in American homes, but during the winter months, they are number one culprit. Tens of thousands

of home heating fires kills hundreds of people on average each year.

According to the NFPA, home heating fires are most commonly caused by the following:

- Inadequate chimney cleaning;
- Placing things that can burn too close to space and portable heaters;
- Fueling errors involving liquid- or gas-fueled heaters; and
- Flaws in the design, installation or use of heating equipment

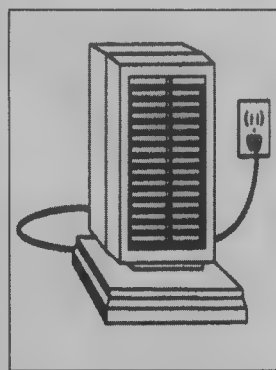
"The good news is that most of these fires are preventable," said Meri-K Appy of the NFPA. "It's simply a matter of being aware that these hazards exist, and taking the few steps necessary to avoid them."

All home heating systems and chimneys should be inspected annually and cleaned, if necessary, before the start of each heating season.

If you use space or portable heaters, keep anything that can burn, including people, pets and furniture, at least three feet away. When leaving the room or going to sleep, make sure to turn the heaters off.

While Christmas trees are a festive part of the season, they also present a fire risk. Place your tree well away from candles, heat sources and exits.

If you're buying a tree, choose a fresh one and remember to water it daily.



PREPARE YOURSELF FOR WINTER STORMS

By Patti David

Many parts of the country suffer from the woes of winter: cold, ice, snow and high winds are common during this time of the year. It is therefore prudent to know and heed the following, provided by the National Fire Protection Association:

• Know what winter storm watches and warnings mean. A winter storm watch means a winter storm is possible in your area. A winter storm warning means a winter

storm is headed for your area. A blizzard warning means strong winds, blinding, wind-driven snow and dangerous windchill are expected.

• Gather essential supplies, including flashlights, a battery-operated radio, first aid kit, protective clothing and winter wear, canned foods and at least three gallons of water (preferably more).

• Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, The Weather Channel and local television broadcasts for the

latest information about the storm conditions.

• Plan to stay at home during bad weather, but if you must drive and become stuck, stay with your car. Do not try to walk to safety.

• Use a flashlight if the power is out at home. Do not use candles or other open flames indoors. More people have died after recent winter storms from residential fires caused by candles than from the direct effects of the storm itself.

• Use portable space heating equipment very carefully. Keep

heaters at least 3 feet away from any combustible material, including drapes, carpeting and furniture. Do not drape gloves, socks or other clothing over a space heater to dry. Turn space heating equipment off when you are not in the room. Keep children and pets away from heating equipment. Fuel-filled equipment should be filled outdoors when the equipment is completely cool.

Winter storms can occur without warning. Residents of wintry areas should prepare for these storms before they occur.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SEATTLE FIRE
DEPARTMENT FOR PROVIDING THE
GRAPHICS AND GAMES ON THIS PAGE.



Here's a house that really needs some help! There are at least a dozen fire hazards in this house. See if you can find them. When you identify a hazard, write it in the blanks below. Then use this list to check your own home for hazards.

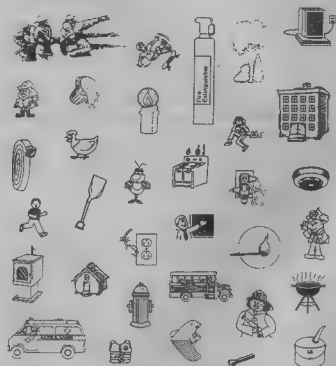


_____	5 _____	9 _____
2 _____	6 _____	10 _____
3 _____	7 _____	11 _____
4 _____	8 _____	12 _____

Did you find any additional hazards? (1/11/2006) (see above)



Circle the things that keep you safe from fire. Put an X over the things that could be fire hazards.



ACROSS:

1. Play it safe this _____ by knowing safety rules.
3. Stay on the _____ and cross streets only at the intersection
6. Beware – costumes and decorations may catch _____ quickly
7. Watch for cars when crossing the _____
10. When you go trick-or-_____ go in a group. It's the safest way.
13. Don't wear masks that restrict your _____

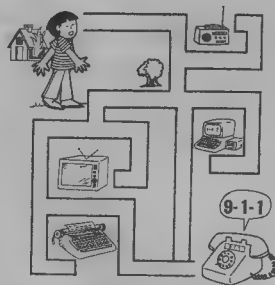
BOWEN

1. Autumn leaves, cornstalks, and paper decorations can be a fire _____.
2. Carry a flashlight – never a candle or open _____.
3. Make sure _____ fit properly, to avoid tripping or falling down.
4. Children should be accompanied by _____ adults when going out on Halloween.
5. Paper decorations and costumes away from _____ sources.
6. Tricks can be _____ when they hurt others, destroy property, or cause fire.
7. Never _____ your treats until an adult in your household has checked them over.
8. Wear light-colored or reflective clothing so you will be seen at _____.
9. At night, carry a flash _____ to show the way.
10. An adult should help you carve a pumpkin, especially when using a sharp _____.

BONUS: If your costume catches fire, 17 across, 9 across, and 14 down

A.CROSS: 1. Hollowood, 3. Aldwinkle, 6. Ely, 7. Stevenage, 10. Breckings, 13. High Down, 14. Hazard, 2. Harne, 4. Coopers, 5. Parsloes, 8. Beeston, 9. Dagmar, 11. East, 12. Nibley, 15. Highgate, 16. Little BONS: Stop, Drop & Roll.

Help Evan get to the phone to call 9-1-1.



By Captain Bud Gundersen
Los Angeles Fire Department

When you babysit, you are entrusted with a child's life. Your primary responsibility is to care for the children's needs and most of all, keep them safe.

- Have the following written down and accessible in the event of an emergency: family name; children's names; house address with nearest cross streets; instructions on how to contact the parents; phone numbers of close relatives and neighbors; doctor's name and phone number along with a medical release. Include the number of the poison control center (800) 777-6476.

- In an emergency, call 911. Identify yourself, tell them you are babysitting and state the problem. State the address of the house and the nearest cross street. (Be sure to

specify North, South, Avenue, Street, etc.) Give the phone number you are calling from.

- Get written instructions about any medicines to be given to the children—how much, and at what time.
- Having visitors while babysitting is a bad policy. Always get approval if you would like to have a visitor.
- Find out which neighbor to contact in case of an emergency.
- Meet the family dog.
- Check for any special locks, windows that cannot be climbed out of, additional telephones and anything that would be a problem in an emergency.
- Check for hazards and things that the children can get into, such as matches, lighter fluid, electric cords, plastic bags, medications, etc.
- Plan different escape routes to get yourself and the children out of

the house in case of a fire.

- Ask if you should give the children anything to eat or drink before bed.
- Make sure all windows and doors are locked from the inside, and lock the front door after the parents leave.

AFTER THE PARENTS LEAVE

- If it is evening, turn on the exterior light.
- If the children are asleep, check on them every 15 minutes.
- Know where the children are at all times. Do not leave them alone too long.
- If for any reason you must leave the house, **TAKE THE CHILDREN WITH YOU!**
- **DO NOT** open the door for anyone unless you personally know the person.

- If someone insists on coming in and you do not recognize them, or if you suspect a prowler, **CALL 911.**

IN CASE OF FIRE

- Remain calm, and think about your earlier fire drill. Sound the alarm—yell FIRE as loudly as possible.
 - If possible, close the door to the area where the fire is.
 - DO NOT attempt to extinguish the fire.
 - Get everyone out of the house and do not go back in for any reason. Keep all the children together and go to the approved neighbor's home.
 - Call the Fire Department at 911 and leave the children with the neighbors. Then go back outside to direct the firefighters to the fire.
- Any sitter who takes these recommendations to heart will be in great demand.

BOSTON FIRE BUREAU'S PROJECT SAFE PROVES ITS WORTH

By Patti David

It's natural for parents to be proud of their children's achievements, but two Boston families can now brag about their children's life- and property-saving prowess.

Jorge Rivas, a 12-year-old recent immigrant from Guatemala, saved his life and the lives of his four siblings during a three-alarm blaze in Boston's Brighton area on March 30, 1997. The boy, who was in charge of his younger siblings, ranging in age from 9 years to 19 months, had learned fire safety under the Boston Fire Department's Project SAFE two months before an arsonist torched their apartment around 1 a.m. He applied his learning and saved five lives in the process.

"I smelled it," Rivas said. "It made me dizzy. I closed the door so the smoke didn't go into the bedroom. I put a towel so the smoke couldn't pass into the room. I went to the window telling everybody that we were there so they could take us out of the building."

These actions, according to Boston Fire Commissioner Martin E. Pierce, were exactly what the youth was supposed to do.

"We are professionals trained to do this, day in and day out," Pierce said. "When you take a man that's only 12 years old who can gather his family in one room and do all the right things that he learned in a pro-

gram...that's a dramatic success."

Rivas volunteered to watch his siblings while his mother, Luz Ofelia Rivas, a self-employed cook, was working. Rivas said his 19-month old brother, Ariel, woke him.

Rivas' quick and calm thinking bought firefighters enough time to bring two ladders to the apartment window where the children were yelling for help.

"There was heavy, heavy smoke," said Boston Fire Capt. Richard Magee. "It was impossible for those kids to get out. They were at the windows screaming."

On April 11, Rivas was given awards by the state fire marshal, the Boston Fire Department and the American Red Cross.

Another pint-sized hero, 6-year-old Mike Story, saved the day with his quick thinking on June 8. The boy was riding a tricycle on the sidewalk, waiting for his birthday party to begin, when he saw smoke billowing out of a neighbor's window. Applying what he learned from a video presented during his kindergarten class, the boy rode to the fire alarm box. Being only 4 feet tall, he hopped onto his tricycle and pulled on the alarm.

"I pulled the lever two times, so that the firemen would come extra fast," Mike told his mother.

Mike's actions saved the home of neighbor Dick Brady. A short-circuited heating pad ignited a rug, according to Steve MacDonald of

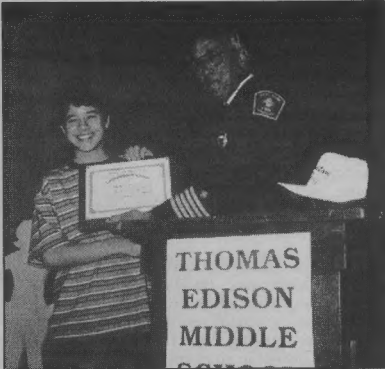
the Boston Fire Department. Damage was assessed at \$1,000.

Brady was more than grateful to the 6-year-old for his quick thinking.

"It was absolutely amazing," he said. "Most kids open their mouths and stare at a fire, but Mike did something he saw in school and pulled the alarm. I couldn't thank him enough."

These two recent events prove that children do use the fire safety and prevention training they receive in school. Boston Fire Department's Project SAFE, (Student Awareness of Fire Education) is only one of the more recent fire prevention and safety education programs to hit the schools. Begun only in April, 1996, the program will reach 13,000 middle school students in Boston.

Project SAFE is a day-long program that consists of a film, lecture and reading material, said Elaine Mesiti, director of Public Education for the Boston Fire Department. Sponsored by the Boston Fire Department and the American Cancer Society in partnership with the American Red Cross, it is the only program in the Boston area that not



HERO—Jorge Rivas, 12, grins as Boston Fire Commissioner Martin Pierce honors him for his life-saving actions during a March 30 fire.

only teaches students the dangers of fire, it also discourages tobacco smoking and shows students how smoking tobacco can also create fire hazards.

Topics include Fire Safety and Prevention; Basic First Aid; and Smoking Hazards and related illnesses. It also includes topics on working together, partnerships, careers and education.

"It takes students on a journey to provide them with the information they need to help them decide what must be done to protect themselves and their family from fire and health hazards," Mesiti said.

CHILDREN AND FIRE DO NOT MIX

By Don Porth, President
SOS FIRES:

Youth Intervention Programs

Children will take the lives of more than 400 people this year by playing with fire. Tragically, the most likely victims of these fires are preschool-aged children, usually due to their own fire play or that of other children.

Most fires set by children stem from innocent play in which the intent is to do no harm whatsoever. Why? Because most children don't

then fail to see the danger of these devices.

Smokers' homes are more likely to provide ready access to matches and lighters. Children who live with smokers are twice as likely to play with fire as children living with non-smokers.

Children in our nation take more than 400 lives and damage more than \$150 million in property each year. How do we stop this?

Be watchful and conscientious parents. Teach children about the dangers of knives, guns and drugs,

err on the side of safety.

A child's interest in fire is normal. Its appropriate use is the critical issue. A child's ideas about the use of fire will mirror his or her parents' behavior with fire. Never misuse fire.

Keep matches and lighters in a safe place, out of sight and out of reach, at all times.

SOS FIRES: Youth Intervention Program is a non-profit group dedicated to reducing the problem of children's misuse of fire. We deliver training programs to the fire service and mental health community, distribute educational messages (such as this article), support the development of educational tools to help children better understand the proper use of fire, and maintain an Internet site (the Juvenile Firesetter Resource Center) to share information and developments around the globe.

The Center for High-Risk Outreach, a section of the National Fire Protection Association, has established a steering committee to facilitate recommendations from two meetings of experts from across North America. These recommendations will bring our nation together to help increase community safety.

Most fire departments have programs to help families if their child's fire behavior concerns them. These programs usually

work with the mental health community to offer a full range of services for children who have misused fire. Contact your fire department to see if it has such a program.

A good example and good information from adults, particularly parents, is all that is needed to keep most children safe from fire. Few children ever develop a problem with fire that requires counseling or other help. Curiosity is what allows children to learn and grow. But fire, through even the most innocent act of play, can bring a child's life to a quick and tragic end.

Don Porth, the President of SOS FIRES, is a 14-year veteran of the Portland, Ore. Fire Bureau. He has helped hundreds of families deal with firesetting problems. Portland's juvenile firesetter intervention program is known nationwide for its positive impact on the community.

SOS FIRES: Youth Intervention Programs operates through a volunteer board of directors and relies on donations to accomplish its mission of creating a fire safe tomorrow for youth everywhere.

For more information, contact Don Porth at 55 S.W. Ash Street, Portland, OR 97204, (503) 823-3615. Visit the Juvenile Firesetter Resource Center at www.sosfires.com.

realize that fire can kill people and destroy property.

We use fire so routinely that we let our guard down and teach our children, through our acts, that fire is not dangerous. A child's primary method of learning is through what is seen, not what is said.

Our use of birthday candles, incense, gas stoves, barbecues and campfires all minimize the dangers of fire.

While smokers do not cause fire-play by children, the lighters used minimize the dangers. Smokers hold flames within inches of their faces. Children are told these things are dangerous. Children

and matches and lighters. A 9-year study on deaths caused by Portland, Ore. children showed that children are two and a half times more likely to take a life playing with a match or lighter than they are by accidentally firing a loaded gun!

Teach children that matches and lighters are tools for adults, NOT toys for children.

Answer children's questions about fire. When children ask questions, they want to learn.

Let children use fire only when they are responsible enough to do so safely. When? Parents know their own children best, but always



COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS NEED FIRE SAFETY 101

By Patti David

College-bound students should pack along some Fire Safety 101 in their heads along with the gear they bring into their dormitories this year, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Students away from home and their family's direct supervision are often likely to succumb to temptations which may be deadly.

"For many college students, this is the first time they are away from home, taking responsibility for cooking and heating equipment, and often smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol in an unsupervised environment," said Meri-K Appy, NFPA public education specialist. "This can be a deadly mix. It is absolutely essential that these young adults know how to avoid fires and (know) what to do if one occurs."

The NFPA urged students and their families to heed fire safety and prevention advice soon after the 1996 Chapel Hill, NC fraternity house fire killed five college juniors on Mother's Day. An investigation identified a number of factors that contributed to the tragic fire. Among these were the lack of a building-wide fire alarm system and automatic fire sprinkler protection, the presence of combustible interior finish materials and an open central stairway that allowed the smoke and fire to spread unchecked.

Dormitory fires occur frequently



as well—a fire in Franklin, Mass. gutted one occupied dormitory building at 2 a.m. on October 25, 1995. The building was a total loss. Another nearby dormitory caught fire as well. In this fire, there were no automatic sprinkler systems, and the building was built before today's present fire code standards.

There are a considerable number of dormitory buildings and fraternity houses throughout the country that are not properly equipped with modern fire safety equipment, especially in the East, where many of the Universities are older.

The Chapel Hill fire was caused by the careless disposal of smoking materials.

"We've seen this kind of horrific loss too many times before," said NFPA Chief Fire Investigator Edward Comeau. "Fraternities, rather than sororities, have had the larger share of these catastrophic fires."

Statistics show that the top cause

of fire deaths in the U.S. is improperly discarded smoking materials. This cause alone is responsible for nearly 25 percent of the fire deaths in this country.

Comeau added that the approach to safer campus housing needs has to be comprehensive—it must involve fire and university officials, fraternal organizations and the students.

"It is critically important for students to understand the consequences of carelessness, such as tossing smoldering cigarette butts into the trash or leaving the stove on and then falling asleep, or putting a space heater too close to the bed," Comeau said.

"College students need the same information about preventing fires as people in any other type of housing," he added. "The difference here has to do with maturity, and the sudden independence many students experience for the first time in a dorm or frat house setting."

ting."

Students are being urged to responsibly care for their safety and the safety of their peers.

"We're not trying to tell these kids not to party," Appy said. "What we're trying to get across is the need for someone in the house to take responsibility for the things that can go wrong."

If students smoke, they should make sure there are lots of deep, sturdy ashtrays, and that the contents should be flushed with water before they are discarded.

Students should have someone check all the cushions and upholstery for smoldering cigarette butts before going to sleep.

"This is the same concept as the designated driver, but for the home instead of the car," Appy said. "Designate someone to stay sober and responsible."

In addition to reinforcing fire safety information, the NFPA's investigative report stressed the importance of code enforcement and regular inspections. These are essential components of building fire safety, and are considered critical to housing for young adults.

"NFPA's century-old library of fire investigations reveals many similarities between this Chapel Hill fire and other Greek housing fires over the years," Comeau said. "Because of the historical risk for fire, particularly in fraternities, NFPA strongly supports comprehensive plans for managing fire risk in student housing."

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, FEAR STRIKES

By Patti David

Disasters come when least expected, and it is difficult to deal with them. There are things we can do before and after a disaster, however, that may make things easier to cope with. The following is a compilation of data provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

BEFORE A DISASTER STRIKES:

Develop and practice a family disaster plan. Contact local organizations that deal with emergency management or civil defense—the American Red Cross is a good resource—for materials that describe how your family can create a disaster plan for the types of disasters that usually strike in your area. Make sure that everyone in your household, including the children, participate in the planning process.

Teach your children how to recognize danger signals and educate them on the characteristics and features of smoke detectors, fire alarms and local community warning systems such as horns and sirens. Make sure they know what these signals sound like and what the children should do when the signals are aired.

Tell everyone how to call for help.

Check the telephone directory for local emergency phone numbers and post the numbers by all telephones. If you live within an area that provides 911 service, tell your children

not be old enough to memorize the information, and should carry a small index card with this information to give an adult or babysitter, in case of emergency.



After a disaster, reassure children to reduce their fear and anxiety.

to call that number in an emergency and then show them how to do it.

Help your children memorize important family information such as the family name, their address and phone number. They should also know where to meet in case of an emergency. Some children may

AFTER THE DISASTER:

Once a disaster strikes, adults will be busy tending to the immediate emergency. However, it is extremely important to reassure children and the elderly and reduce their fear and anxiety.

It is important to keep the family together. While you are looking for housing and assistance, it may seem necessary to leave your children with relatives or friends, but avoid this at all costs. Instead, keep the family together, because children develop anxiety, and they worry that their parents will not return.

Let everyone know what is happening. Explain what you know about the disaster, and what is likely to happen next, and talk to your children at their own eye level. If the family has to move to a shelter, explain that this will be necessary but is a temporary situation.

Encourage children to talk about the disaster as much as they want to. Ask them to describe what they're feeling. Listen to what they say. If possible, include the entire family in the discussion.

Include your children in recovery activities by giving them chores that match their age and level of responsibility. This will help the children feel as if they are part of the recovery, and being assigned a task will help them understand that everything will be alright.

Understand what is causing the anxieties of the very young and the very old. Reassure them with firmness and love. Your children and the elderly you care for will realize that eventually life will return to normal.



LET'S GET CLEAR ON SMOKE DETECTORS

By Patti David

What's new in smoke detectors?

There are always new developments. Smoke detectors for the hearing impaired are now available. These units operate by sending out light flashes and vibrations, in addition to the beeping noise created by most smoke detectors.

Some manufacturers now produce smoke detectors with heat sensing devices. Most of these devices consist of a specially formulated metal which either distorts or melts because of the heat in the air around it.

Heat sensors built into smoke detectors usually set-off the main detector's alarm when a certain temperature is exceeded, and sound their own alarm or send an electrical signal to a central alarm.

These features may be handy, if

decreased steadily as the number of homes with smoke detectors increased. Reports from the National Fire Protection Association on residential fire deaths show that people have nearly a 50 percent better chance of surviving a fire if their home has the recommended number of smoke detectors.

Should I replace my smoke detector?

Smoke detectors that are 10 years old should be replaced. A smoke detector constantly monitors the air 24 hours a day. After 10 years, it has gone through more than 3.5 million monitoring cycles. After this much use, components may become less reliable.

My detectors are wired into my electrical system. Do I need to replace them as often as battery-operated detectors? Yes. Both types of detectors are equally affected by age.

How many detectors should I have?

The most important thing is to have working smoke detectors in your home.

they are close to the fire. They are useful in environments that could fool or disable a smoke detector—for instance, in a kitchen, where grease particles in the air might cause a smoke detector to send out a false alarm. Heat sensors may also be used in areas that are too hot or too cold for smoke detectors to function well, such as furnace rooms, attics and attached garages.

The most important thing is to have working smoke detectors in your home. The following information should clear the air on smoke detectors.

How effective are smoke detectors? Residential fire deaths have

The exact number depends on the number of levels in the home and the number of rooms used for sleeping. National fire safety standards recommend a minimum of one detector on each level of the home, one detector outside the bedroom area and one in each bedroom. Detectors placed outside of the bedroom area should be installed near enough to be heard at night through a closed bedroom door.

Is there more than one type of smoke detector and what is the difference?

There are two types of smoke detectors for homes. One type is called an ionization detectors because it monitors 'ions, or electrically charged

particles.' Smoke particles entering the sensing chamber change the electrical balance of the air. The alarm will sound when the change in electrical balance reaches a preset level.

The photoelectric detector's sensing chamber uses a beam of light and a light sensor. Smoke particles entering the chamber change the amount of light that reaches the light sensor. The detector sounds when the smoke density reaches a preset level.

Is one type of detector better than the other? The ionization detector responds faster to small smoke particles, while the photoelectric responds faster to large smoke particles. As a rule, fast-flaming fires produce more small smoke particles and smoldering fires produce more large particles. Thus, the response time of the two types of detectors will vary, depending on the mix of small and large smoke particles in the fire.

What is more important—the type of detector or the number? The number of detectors is more important than the type. Installing several smoke detectors of each type will provide better coverage in the extreme cases of long-term smoldering or fast flaming fires. If the choice is between having only one of each type or having more of the same type, more detectors is the better choice.

My detector goes off when I cook. How can I stop this? Smoke detectors are

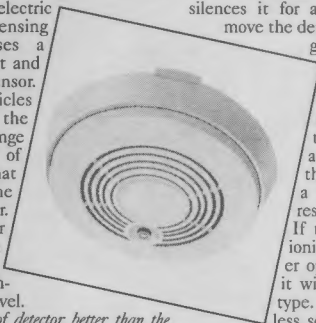
designed to be very sensitive so they will alert occupants to a fire in time for them to escape. If a detector regularly responds to smoke from cooking, then either: replace the detector with one that has a button that silences it for a few minutes; or move the detector farther away,

giving the smoke a chance to dissipate; or move a ceiling-mounted detector to a wall to reduce nuisance alarms. However, this will also make it a little slower to respond to a real fire. If the detector is an ionization type, another option is to replace it with a photoelectric type. This detector is less sensitive to smaller smoke particles and thus is less affected by cooking smoke.

How can I test my detector? Every smoke detector comes with a test button. Test your detectors regularly, at least once a month.

How important is it to clean my detectors? It is essential. Cleaning is easy. Just vacuum the detector at least once a year. This will keep the openings to the sensing chamber free of dust, residue from cooking vapors and insects.

What about changing batteries? Smoke detector batteries should last at least one year under normal conditions. The biggest reason that smoke detectors don't work is because people remove the batteries and forget to replace them. The best way to prevent this is to replace the batteries at the same time each year before the low battery signal begins.



KEEP FIRST AID KITS CURRENT

By Patti David

First aid kits are handy and can potentially save lives, but they should be kept current, as they become useless with time and gradual use. Medication can expire or be used up, making the kit useless in an emergency.

The following list of first aid kit essentials can help you update your kit or build a new one.

- A first aid manual such as The American Red Cross First Aid and Personal Safety Handbook for ready reference

- A box of assorted adhesive bandages for minor cuts

- Sterile 4-inch by 4-inch gauze dressings for cuts and bruises

- A 2-inch wide roll of gauze bandage to hold dressings in place

- At least one roll of 1-inch wide adhesive tape to secure dressings

- A one-step burn dressing such as Water-Jel or Second Skin first aid emergency burn dressing

- Safety pins of various sizes

- A good pair of scissors



- Two triangular bandages to use as a sling

- A survival blanket for treating shock

- A flashlight with fresh batteries

- At least 10 packages of moist towelettes

- Tweezers for splinter removal

- A thermometer

- Sunburn lotion

- Hand soap

- One bottle of aspirin and one bottle of acetaminophen for treating minor pain

- Alcohol swabs

- A tube of antibiotic ointment

- Insect bite remedy and antihistamine tablets

- A snake bite kit

HOME FIRE PREVENTION CHECKLIST

Use this handy Home Fire Prevention Checklist to make your homes more firesafe:

- Smoke detectors near bedrooms, away from air vents, at least one per floor
- Smoke detector batteries checked weekly
- Emergency phone numbers posted near each telephone
- Kitchen and hallways well-lit
- Doors, hallways and stairs clear of obstruction
- No flammable materials within three feet of space heaters, fireplace or stove
- No flammable liquids stored near ignition sources
- No frayed or cracked electrical cords
- No electrical cords under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas
- No overloaded electrical outlets or extension cords

- No unusually warm outlets
- All fuses in fuse box are the correct size
- All outlets have cover plates and no exposed wiring
- No alternate heaters hooked up to extension cords
- No alternate heaters placed where they can be knocked over
- All heaters are unplugged after they are turned off
- No grease on stove or oven
- Rubberized floor mat set in front of stove to prevent slipping
- Dish towels are not used as pot holders
- No ashtrays on sofa or chair arms or near beds
- Chimneys cleaned and clear of debris

Compiled by the United States Fire Administration.

Include items needed by family members in one's first aid kit. If a family member has insulin-dependent diabetes, include glucose tablets, insulin and syringes, and a

glucose test monitor if one is using the first aid kit as a travel or camping kit. A responsible family member should tailor the kit to each family member's needs.



KEEP HOLIDAYS HAPPY AND FIRE SAFE

The American Red Cross says that fires displace more families from their homes than all other disasters combined. The hustle and bustle of the season keeps everyone so involved in preparations for their festivities that they do not notice the increased fire risk in their homes. Go through this checklist of home fire safety tips for the holidays before things get too hectic—it could make the difference between happy and disastrous holidays.

- Before cooking your holiday turkey or ham, check the oven to make sure it is clean and in good repair.
- When pots are on burners, make sure their handles are turned toward the back of the stove to keep children from pulling the pots off the stove.
- If using candles as holiday decor, make sure the holder supports the candle and holds all melted wax. NEVER leave a burning candle unattended. NEVER place a burning candle near combustible materials

such as curtains, couches, wreaths, cards or tablecloths.

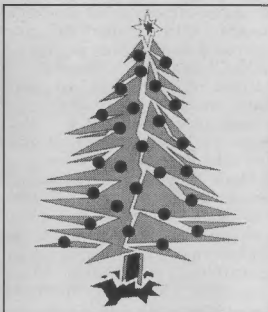
- When buying a tree from a lot, first grab a branch, close your gloved hand around a section of the needles and lightly pull towards you. If the needles come off in your hand, the tree is too dry. Choose one that holds its needles.

If you're not going to set the tree up immediately, cut about an inch off the bottom of the trunk and stand the tree up in a bucket of water, to make sure it stays moist.

- Synthetic Christmas trees must be approved by Underwriters Laboratory. Check electrical cords and lights daily for damage. If you find a frayed or cracked cord, replace the string of lights immediately.
- Live trees should be watered daily.

- Don't let your pets chew the light cords or strings.
- NEVER set the tree next to a heat register, an air duct or radiator.

- Make sure the tree is level, the stand is sturdy and will hold water without leaking.



- Do not string more than three strands of lights together, to minimize the risk of blowing a fuse or starting a fire. NEVER use extension cords that are not U.L. approved.
- NEVER run extension cords under a rug or carpet.
- Count the number of wall plugs in the room where the tree will be in, and never overload the circuit breaker in your fuse box. Do not

overload the wall plug with multiple cords.

- DO NOT decorate your tree with metallic tinsel, as this type of decor can cause a short and then a fire. Similarly, never place metal ornaments close to lights.

• When disposing of your tree, NEVER cut it up and burn it in the fireplace. Most tree farms spray their trees with chemicals that will be released if the tree is burned. Evergreen trees also generate a large amount of creosol and tar buildups in your chimney, which could in turn cause a chimney fire.

- Buy a tree bag and dispose of the tree properly. Tree bags are available at most hardware stores and stores which sell Christmas ornaments.

• Remove the tree from the stand and lay it on the floor. Starting at the bottom of the trunk, unroll the bag up and around the tree. Take it outside, away from the house or garage. Most trash disposal services provide information about when and where to dispose of old trees.

HAVE YOU PLANNED YOUR SAFE ESCAPE?

There is more to surviving a home fire than waking up before it is too late. People who just wake up, especially children, are confused and may panic in the excitement. Everyone's safety may depend on instinctively knowing what to do in case of a fire.

Home fire drills may sound silly, and a serious fire is no fun to talk about, but a little time spent choosing escape routes and practicing what to do if the detector goes off may save lives if a fire ever occurs in your home.

- Walk through the main escape route several times. Try it in the dark or with your eyes closed. Memorize the number of steps

between obstacles and turns. If a piece of furniture keeps getting in the way, move it to clear the path.

- Plan alternate ways of escape from each room. If the main route were blocked by fire or impenetrable smoke, how would each family member get out? If bedroom windows are too high for safe jumping, perhaps you should buy rope or chain escape ladders to keep at a window in each bedroom.

- If you must go through a smoke-filled area, crawl on your hands and knees, with your head low, to avoid breathing smoke.

- Before opening an inside door, touch the knob and the top of the door. If either feels hot, do not

open the door. Fire on the other side might flash into your room. Instead, use your secondary escape route.

- Agree on a place to meet outside the home, so you can count noses and be sure everyone is safe.

- Do not call the fire department from the burning home. Get out safely, then telephone from a neighbor's home or use an alarm box.

- Go back into your house or apartment only after the firefighters have assured you that the fire is fully extinguished and the structure is sound.

Your smoke detector is one of the most significant improvements in home fire safety ever to occur, but

its effectiveness depends on your own efforts to prevent and escape from fires.



DO YOU STORE ENOUGH WATER FOR EMERGENCY USE?

By Firefighter Patrick Leising
Los Angeles Fire Department

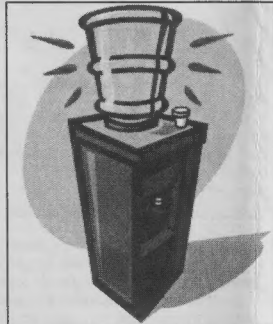
Most areas of the world have the potential for some kind of disaster, whether it is an earthquake, flood, tornado, hurricane, etc. There is also a strong possibility that this disaster could leave you without the water that you need. You should have emergency water supplies available for your use.

How much water you store and how you store it is up to you and your budget. A good rule of thumb on the quantity of water to store is one gallon of water per person per day for at least seven days. Also, don't forget to take your family pets into consideration.

There are many container types you can use to store your water. Bottled water can be purchased at most grocery stores in one- and two-gallon plastic containers. The problem with these containers is that they

are not designed for long-term storage and may begin to leak or fail after six months. These containers are not very expensive but the price can really add up if you decide you need 20-50 gallons of water and have to replace them every six months.

Larger five-gallon containers may



be purchased from private water suppliers. These companies claim that their water and containers are good for up to 10 years, if still sealed by the factory and properly stored. Other containers in various sizes, all the way to 55-gallon plastic drums, can be found at survival and camping supply stores.

If you intend to use tap water and your own containers, you must sanitize the container and purify the water. Do this by cleaning them with soap and water, then fill them with a 10 percent bleach solution for five minutes and allow the container to air dry.

The best and easiest way to purify your water is to add eight drops or one small capful of non-scented liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water. It is also acceptable to add 12 drops of 2 percent tincture of iodine per gallon of water, or boil the water vigorously for five minutes. If you boil your water, add one extra

minute of boiling time for every thousand feet of elevation above sea level. Lastly, if your water is cloudy, double the above quantities for each method.

Do not store any plastic water containers directly on concrete. The concrete will leech chemicals into the water, contaminating it, and will also degrade the plastic bottles, causing failure. Store all plastic water containers on a wooden pallet or on a shelf. Keep your water in a cool, dark location, where container failure will not destroy your other emergency supplies. Also, do not forget to replace or rotate your water every six months.

If you have access to the Internet and want more information about disaster preparedness or water supplies, you can examine the earthquake and emergency preparedness guide on the Los Angeles City Fire Department web page at www.ci.la.ca.us/dept/LAFD/eqindex.htm.